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FINANCIAL TIMES

PUBLISHED IN LONDON AND FRANKFURT

No. 28,573 Tuesday September 15 1981 ***30p

AVIA SWISS QUARTZ

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Sarjeant 'planned to kill Queen'

Marcus Sarjeant, 17, who admitted firing blank shots at the Queen during this year's Trooping the Colour, had planned for some time to assassinate her, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

Sarjeant "fell back" on an imitation gun when he was unable to obtain a "suitably lethal" weapon. He was jailed for five years.

Healey threat

Denis Healey said he would not serve a Labour Government committed to a manifesto declaring unilateral disarmament. Union backing, Page 11

Haig denial

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig denied reports in Bonn that the U.S. planned to delay the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe. Back Page

SA sanction call

The U.N. general assembly in a 117 to 0 vote called on the security council to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa for failing to grant Namibia independence.

Gandhi accused

Indian parliament broke up in uproar when opposition leaders accused Mrs Gandhi of a breach of privilege over illegal fund raising. Page 5

Polish coal boost

A Polish scheme to boost coal output has prompted 7,500 civilians and 2,500 soldiers to volunteer to go to the mines. Page 3

IRA to protest

IRA supporters in Australia plan protests against the Queen and Mrs Thatcher when they arrive for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in two weeks.

Japan arms plan

Japan is to develop four new weapons systems, including a ground-to-air missile and a laser-guided anti-tank missile at a total cost of £142m.

Neutron decision

France said it had decided to pursue research into neutron weapons in the light of the U.S. decision to build them and a Soviet claim it could produce them.

E. Germans flee

Two East German couples and their two children fled to West Germany by sailing across the southern edge of the Baltic Sea.

3 die in crash

Three people were killed and at least one injured in a multiple accident involving an articulated lorry on the M3 in Hampshire.

Italians remanded

Italy is expected to seek the extradition of seven Italians remanded in custody at Bow Street, London. The seven face a charge of robbery with violence.

Emmy award

Vanessa Redgrave won an Emmy, U.S. television's highest award, for her role as a Nazi concentration camp victim in Arthur Miller's *Playing for Time*.

Briefly...

Greek premier George Rallis resigned to make way for elections on October 18.

Soviet woman celebrating her 130th birthday was joined by 67 friends all over 100.

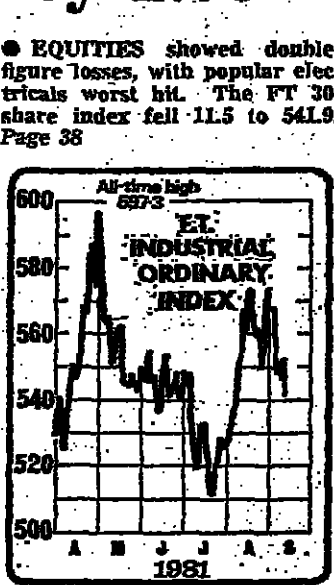
Manpower Services Commission said £350,000 will be spent to help 250 unemployed youngsters in Bristol.

Earthquake killed more than 50 in northern Pakistan.

BUSINESS

Equities slump; £ up by 1.7c

EQUITIES showed double-figure losses, with popular electricals worst hit. The FT 30 share index fell 11.5 to 541.9. Page 38



GILTS fell with the Government Securities Index down 0.91 at 61.34. Page 38

WALL STREET was 2.38 down at 870.43 near the close. Page 30

STERLING closed in London at \$1.795, a rise of 1.7 cents. It finished at DM 4.265 (DM 4.27) and SwFr 3.945 (SwFr 3.9525). Its trade-weighted index fell to 87.0 (87.5). Page 30

DOLLAR fell to close in London at DM 2.374 (DM 2.401) and SwFr 2.031 (SwFr 2.054). It eased against the Japanese yen to ¥236.1 (¥231.4). Its trade-weighted index fell to 116.1 (116.6). Page 20

GOLD closed at \$451 in London, a rise of \$1.28 since New York's Comex September close was \$459.7. Page 30

SWEDEN devalued the krona 10 per cent. Back Page

JAPAN'S trade surplus with EEC jumped 32 per cent to \$6.3bn (\$5.5bn) in first seven months of 1981, and with the U.S. 50 per cent, also to \$6.3bn. Back Page

SOUTH AFRICAN Reserve Bank may negotiate more gold "swaps" with foreign banks to strengthen foreign currency reserves. Back Page

JAMAICA has received a U.S.\$25m loan from Venezuela to meet the island's balance of payments deficit. Page 4

WEST GERMANY'S net contribution to the EEC budget rose nearly 80 per cent to DM 3.04bn (£713m) in the first half of this year. Page 2

L. M. ERICSSON, the Swedish telecommunications group, launched a \$40m 14-year convertible Eurobond. Page 24

ASSOCIATED NEWS-PAPER, publisher of the Daily Mail, has signed a lease for an 11-acre site on Surrey Docks, Southwark, south London, where it has outline planning permission for a print works.

IBM is to spend £220m on plant and buildings at its Havant, Hampshire, plant to make substrates for mounting microchips. Page 9

FORD may build a car diesel engine plant in Britain. Back Page

TGWU members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, plant rejected a pay offer worth about 4 per cent. Page 11

COMPANIES

AMEY ROADSTONE Corporation, the concrete pipe producer, reported lower pre-tax profits of £34.2m (£35.7m) for the year to June 30. Page 23

C. D. BRAMALL, the Bradford-based motor dealer, increased pre-tax profits to £1.05m (£918,000) for the first half of 1981. Page 23

Reshuffle hardens Thatcher grip on strategy

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY EDITOR

THE Prime Minister strengthened her personal authority over the Cabinet yesterday with a substantial reshuffle that gives her a firmer grip on Government economic and industrial strategy.

On the same day the Government's anti-inflationary policy was forcefully reaffirmed, with the decision to raise interest rates.

Two Cabinet newcomers are Mr Norman Tebbit, who becomes Employment Secretary, and Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary. Both are unequivocally on the Tory right.

The balance in the Cabinet is further altered by the dismissal of three ministers critical of many of Mrs Thatcher's policies: Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and Deputy Foreign Secretary, and Mr Mark Carls, Education Secretary.

Mr James Prior had warned that he would refuse a switch from Employment to the Northern Ireland Office because it would take him away from economic decision-making. But he accepted the offer after much heart-searching.

He will remain on the Cabinet economic committee but Mr Prior has undoubtedly suffered a loss of influence.

His unusual public bargaining tactics over the week-end presented Mrs Thatcher with an acute dilemma. She could either stand firm and face the damaging prospect of Mr Prior's resignation, or she could leave him at Employment and be accused of bowing to threats. Her decision was to stand by her original offer of the Northern Ireland Office, with no alternative.

The emphatic message of the reshuffle, which was more wide-ranging than anticipated, is that the Prime Minister intends to fulfil her manifesto commitments and to maintain the economic strategy laid down when she took office.

There will be no change of course under her new team—which will take the Conservatives through what promises to be a turbulent pre-election period.

Her grip on the Conservative

Party as well as the Cabinet has also been strengthened with the choice of Mr Cecil Parkinson, formerly Trade Minister, who succeeds the retiring Lord Thorneycroft as party chairman. Mr Parkinson also becomes Paymaster-General and will attend Cabinet meetings.

The right of the Conservative Party gave an enthusiastic reception to the changes last night, particularly the promotion of Mr Tebbit to Employment where he is much more likely than Mr Prior to bring in tougher legislation against the closed shop and other trade union powers.

Conversely, the "wets" in the Government and on the Tory back benches were deeply depressed at what they regarded

as a masked loss of influence and confirmation that Mrs Thatcher has no intention of adopting more radical policies to combat unemployment.

Mr Prior's transfer came as a particular blow, as he led this summer, attack within the Cabinet against more public expenditure cuts. He also led the demand for higher spending on job creation.

With the departure of Sir Ian Gilmour and Lord Soames and the transfer of Mr Prior out of the economic mainstream, the

call for a modifying of economic policies will be led by a depleted group of ministers including Mr Francis Pym who retains the same roles but becomes Lord President of the Council, and Mr Peter Walker, still Agriculture Minister despite some defiant criticism of Mrs Thatcher.

The transfer to Education of Sir Keith Joseph, one of Mrs Thatcher's most loyal supporters, was also noted.

Continued on Back Page
Details and profiles, Page 8; Editorial Comment, Page 18

Government changes

Secretary for Education and Science	Sir Keith Joseph
Lord President of the Council	Francis Pym
Secretary for Northern Ireland	James Prior
Lord Privy Seal	Humphrey Atkins
Secretary for Industry	Patrick Jenkin
Secretary for Transport	David Howell
Secretary for Social Services	Norman Fowler
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Baroness Young
Secretary for Energy	Nigel Lawson
Secretary for Employment	Norman Tebbit
Paymaster General	Cecil Parkinson
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD	Mrs Peggy Fennell
Parliamentary Secretary	Mrs Peggy Fennell
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Jerry Wiggin
Secretary for the Armed Forces	William Shelton
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	David Mellor
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Sir George Young
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Sport)	Neil Macfarlane
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	
Minister of State	Richard Luce
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Lord Trefgarne
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Lord Elton
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY	
Minister of State	Norman Lamont
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE	
Minister of State	Earl of Gowrie
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Nicholas Scott
SCOTTISH OFFICE	
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Allan Stewart
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE	
Minister of State	Peter Rees
Parliamentary Under-Secretary	Iain Sproat
H.M. TREASURY	
Financial Secretary to the Treasury	Nicholas Ridley

Bank of England engineers rise in short term interest rates

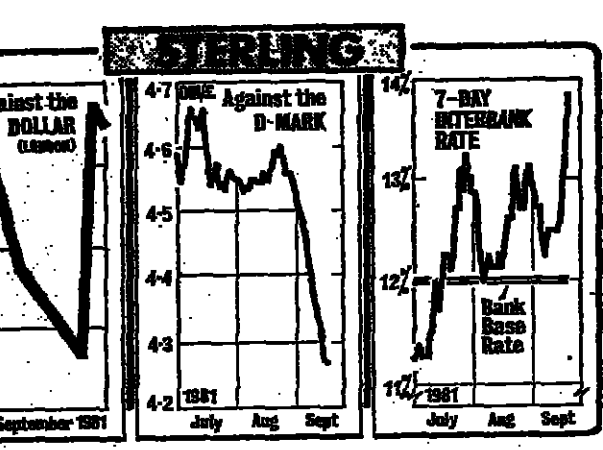
BY DAVID MARSH

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday reaffirmed its overriding commitment to fighting inflation by acting to push up interest rates to counter the growing weakness of sterling.

In a move that looks certain to raise the cost of overdrafts and mortgages, the Bank of England engineered a rise of about 1 percentage point in short-term rates on the London money market.

Under the Minimum Lending Rate system in force until last month this would amount to a rise of about 2 per cent in M.L.R. from the previous 15 per cent.

Since M.L.R. has been suspended as part of the Bank's new system of monetary control, Britain's clearing banks now have to rely mainly on the response on the foreign exchange markets rather than official guidance in deciding by how much to increase their base lending rates.



In the City last night it was generally expected that the banks will raise their base rates by up to 2 percentage points to 14 per cent this week.

The Bank's action was forced by mounting inflationary pressures caused by the sharp fall of the pound.

It amounts to the first major policy measure to defend the currency since the 1976 sterling crisis. It is also designed to slow recent rapid growth in

bank lending to the private sector.

Sterling strengthened nearly 3 cents following the Bank's announcement. It closed in London at \$1.7950 against \$1.7660 before the move, and \$1.7780 on Friday.

It also rose sharply against the D-Mark and other Continental currencies, against which it has lately been particularly weak. Its overall trade weighted index recovered during the day but still finished at \$7.0, the lowest since May 1979.

The Bank intervened fairly strongly to try to brake the pound's fall before the interest rate move. According to some dealers, it may have bought more than £100m yesterday at various levels against the dollar.

There were doubts about how effective the measure would be to bolster sterling. Even after yesterday's partial recovery the pound has fallen by more than 4 per cent against a trade weighted basket of currencies so far this month.

The tightening of the interest rate only four weeks before the Conservative Party's annual conference deals a severe blow to the Government's hopes of a speedy recovery from Britain's worst post-war recession.

However, the Bank's move, taken in consultation with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other senior ministers, is meant to confirm that the Government continues to give the battle against inflation top priority.

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Feature and Editorial Comment Page 18

Clearers postpone base rate decision

BY WILLIAM HALL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE E.C. clearing banks were waiting last night to see at what level short-term interest rates will settle down, before making a decision to increase their base rates.

However, Bank of England, one of the City's smaller, accepting houses, increased its base rate by half a percentage point, to 13 per cent.

A likely rise to 14 per cent will mean that the cost of overdrafts for prime corporate borrowers could rise as high as 15 per cent.

An increase in bank base rates has been on the cards for several months, and even before the latest move the banks could have justified increasing their base rates, to 14 per cent, on the basis of three-month interbank rates, which are a good guide for base rates in normal times.

The big banks have been reluctant to increase overdraft rates, despite the relatively high level of short-term rates, because they did not want to be seen to be increasing industry's borrowing costs during the depths of a recession.

However, yesterday's move by the Bank will give them little room for manoeuvre since, with seven-day interbank rates at nearly 14 per cent, prime corporate borrowers can borrow at 13 per cent and lend in the market at a healthy profit.

If this process, known as arbitrage, happens on a large scale, the banks have no alternative but to increase their rates to stop an outflow of funds. Until now, short-term rates have not been high enough to encourage substantial arbitrage.

The timing and extent of the increase will depend on movements in short-term interest rates, in particular the seven-day interbank rates, which are now standing at 13 per cent.

The banks are conscious that their personal lending has been rising rapidly in recent months.

The Confederation of British Industry said last night that it "greatly regretted" the increase in interest rates, which would add over £300m a year to industry's costs.

It will review its policies at its monthly council meeting tomorrow.

Building societies said they would wait the clearing banks' response to the moves before deciding whether to alter their own interest rates.

Societies will also watch how movements in base rates might affect interest rates on home loans now being offered by the clearing banks—the banks have said that movements in base rates need not necessarily mean higher bank mortgage rates.

Building societies already face more competition from the Government for personal savings and societies' net receipts have tumbled in recent months. But most Building Societies Association members decided not to raise their interest rates at an association council meeting last Friday.

The following Ministers have tendered their resignations: Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council; Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal; Mark Carls, Secretary for Education and Science; Russell Fairgrieve, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Scottish Office; Philip Godhart, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence; Hector Monro, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Sport), Department of the Environment.

Mr Pym will continue as Leader of the House of Commons and will retain responsibility for Government information.

Lady Young will be Leader of the House of Lords and Minister in day-to-day charge of the Civil Service Department.

Mr Parkinson will attend meetings of the Cabinet.

Lady Young, Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Cecil Parkinson join the Privy Council.

Knighthoods will be conferred upon Mr Russell Fairgrieve, Mr Philip Godhart and Mr Hector Monro.

ICL to broaden product range

BY GUY DE JONQUIERES IN PARIS

ICL, the UK computer company, yesterday announced plans to capture a bigger share of the fast-growing market for small computers by broadening its product range and devising new marketing arrangements, including retail selling.

Mr Robb Wilnot, managing director, said in Paris he expected that ICL's output of small computers would increase several times and account for about half the company's turnover in two years. At present, ICL's turnover is split about equally between large, medium and small machines.

The move into small systems, by far the fastest expanding section of the computer market, represents a new direction for ICL. Until recently the company devoted most of its development and marketing effort to bigger machines.

Mr Wilnot emphasised, however, that ICL remained committed to big systems and would be introducing some new products in this market in the coming months.

The company aimed at a fully integrated product range, in which all types of computers would be designed to inter-communicate by means of networking techniques.

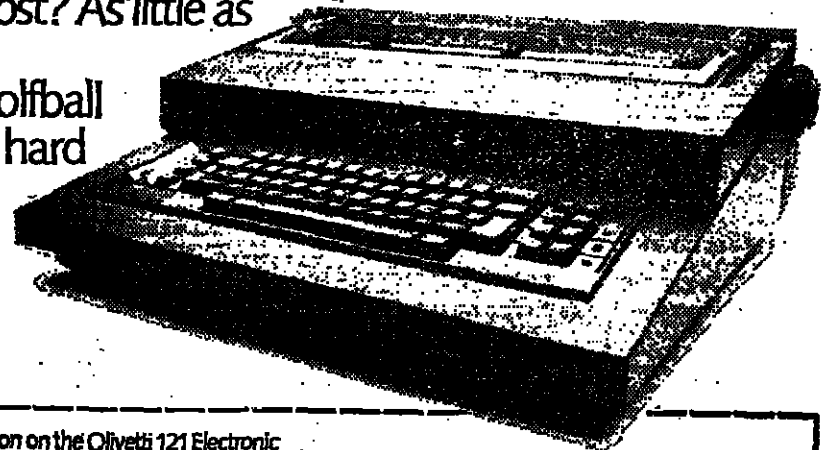
ICL's move into smaller computers will be based initially on three products—its recently developed system 25, a powerful micro-computer developed by Three Rivers of the U.S. with whom ICL announced an agreement last week, and a new information processing system to be unveiled next week.

ICL will start making the Three Rivers computer, the Perq, at its plant at Letchworth, Herts, next March. It has acquired exclusive marketing rights to the machine outside the U.S. and initially plans to manufacture 1,000 of them a year.

Continued on Back Page

THE GOLFBALL IS YOUR HANDICAP.

Electronics have dealt the ageing electric typewriter a death blow. Consider the facts. Whereas a typical golfball typewriter has some 2,500 moving parts, the Olivetti ET 121 has around 100. It has a one line memory. Can justify a line of type to both sides like a book. Centre a heading perfectly. It can even correct its own mistakes. The cost? As little as £7 a week. The golfball has been hit hard all right. You could say it's now lost.



For more information on the Olivetti 121 Electronic typewriter, send this coupon to Valerie Beller, British Olivetti Ltd, 30 Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AH.

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COMPANY _____

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CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISERS	
Abbey Panels	85nd + 134
Bulmer (H.P.)	272 + 8
Channel Tunnel	225 + 57
Currys	198 + 6
Dunbar	550 + 35
Fleet Street Letter	99 + 6
Gripco	116 + 14
Hall (M.)	198 + 7
Hillmans Footwear	104 + 3
Medminster	72 + 5
Monk (A.)	67 + 5
Tunnel B.	490 + 5
Victor	352 + 8
Ward (T.W.)	154 + 5
Whitman Reeve A.I.	185 + 7
Sovereign Oil	360 + 15
Emperor Mines	135 + 15

FALLS	
Gld. Mn. Kalgoothe	560 + 60
Pocsdon	270 + 25
OC Invs.	680 + 30
Vaal Reef	540 + 11
Western Mining	330 + 16

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Dutch Labour Party faces split over nuclear protest

By Charles Batchelor in Amsterdam

THE NETHERLANDS Labour Party is threatened with a split over the issue of nuclear energy only days after the party reached agreement on a new Government coalition. Mr Joop den Uyl, the party leader, is a Deputy Prime Minister.

The row over nuclear energy has strengthened fears that the party may have too many compromises with the Christian Democrats to get into Government and that the leadership is out of touch with grass-roots opinion.

The magazine of the parliamentary party, Voorwaarts, which is the responsibility of the leader of the parliamentary party, Mr Max van den Berg, has called for party members to support a planned blockade of the Dodewaard power station. Protest groups have for several months been planning to block the access roads to the power station for a week starting on Saturday.

The policy of the Labour Party is to shut down Dodewaard, a small experimental power station with only 54 Mw capacity, and Borssele, a commercial station of 450 Mw, and to rely on conventional sources of power. Nuclear plants provide only half a per cent of the country's energy.

But in negotiations with the Christian Democrats and Democrats 66, Labour's partners in the new Government, the party was forced to drop this demand. The new Administration is only committed to carrying out a six-month study of nuclear power.



Mr den Uyl: may face grass-roots anger

Final responsibility for controlling the proposed blockade lies with the Interior Minister, the Labour Party politician Mr Ed van Thijn.

The right to demonstrate is a basic freedom, Mr van Thijn said in a radio interview, but the workforce of Dodewaard has the right to carry out its work in safety. The authorities could not allow Dodewaard to be shut down, he said.

Mr van den Berg, who represents the more radical wing of the Labour Party, has since made clear that he is opposed to illegal action by the protesters and to any use of force.

80% rise in Bonn payments

By our Bonn correspondent

WEST GERMANY'S net contributions to the European Community budget rose by nearly 80 per cent in the first half of this year against the same period of 1980 to DM 3,048m (£883m).

This emerges from balance of payments figures released by the Bundesbank and reflects in part the increased German contribution arising out of last year's budgetary settlement with Britain.

The indications are that the German net contribution for the

whole year will be between DM 6bn and DM 7bn, compared with a net figure of DM 4.8bn for 1980.

This sharp rise is bound to be underlined in Brussels when Bonn presents its case for budgetary savings and for a limitation on its net payments.

The budget issue will also be under scrutiny at a meeting of the Cabinet this Friday devoted solely to European Community matters. The meeting had been scheduled for September 27, but has been brought forward.

West German economic upswing is elusive

The Bonn Government is confident that the economy can grow by 2 per cent next year, but high U.S. interest rates may harm export prospects, writes Jonathan Carr

LIKE A will o' the wisp, the West German economic upswing always seems just another step away.

It was once hoped that signs of an upturn might emerge in the second half of this year. Now they are due next year but then, we are told, they will be unmistakable. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Bonn Government, as well as several economic institutes and banks seem fairly confident that the economy can grow by about 2 per cent in real terms (after inflation) in 1982.

Why should one believe them? After all, real Gross National Product (GNP) which increased by 3.6 per cent and 0.2 per cent in the two halves of last year (against the same periods in 1979), fell by 1.3 per cent in the first half of this year. A total of 1.3m people were unemployed in August—a jobless rate of 5.5 per cent against one of 3.7 per cent a year earlier.

The level of industrial production and use of capacity are low and company profits are being squeezed. Nearly 800 enterprises declared themselves insolvent in July alone—50 per cent more than a year ago.

The setback to growth in the first half of this year was actually less bad than some pessimists feared—thanks in particular to an unusually strong surge in exports. The visible trade surplus in the first seven months totalled about DM 10bn (£2.2bn) compared with only DM 4.5bn in the same period of 1980. This is in spite of worsening terms of trade. For example, West Germany is importing less oil by volume this year but paying much more for it.

The figures for industrial orders indicate that this trend will continue. In the first quarter of this year, foreign orders rose by 2 per cent in real terms against the same period in 1980, in the second quarter by 6 per cent—and in July alone by nearly 20 per cent (while domestic demand was down by nearly 5 per cent).

In these circumstances, the

recent projection by the IFO Economic Research Institute of a total trade surplus of some DM 17bn this year (about double last year's figure) looks realistic. The IFO also suggests that the surplus next year could rise to DM 28bn, thus cutting the current account deficit to about DM 18bn (or less than half the 1980 figure). The Government feels these conclusions are optimistic—but it agrees with their general line.

This has major implications for the D-Mark and the battle against inflation. A key reason for the export surge has been the competitive edge West German goods have gained from the sharp fall of the currency, by nearly 30 per cent since the start of last year against the dollar and by more than that against the yen.

An improvement in trade and the current account is likely to boost the D-Mark

further—it has already gained against the dollar in recent weeks—and depress the imported element of inflation. Hence the perhaps rash suggestion by a Bonn state secretary that the dollar could be down to about DM 2.20 by the end of the year from its present DM 2.40, and the widespread belief that inflation next year could be down to 4 per cent against about 5.5 per cent this year.

There are major qualifications to this encouraging picture. The biggest is that West Germany's economic success depends as much on what happens in the U.S. as it does on decisions taken in Bonn or by the Bundesbank in Frankfurt. German export growth can brake an economic downturn, but it cannot wholly compensate for a domestic market which has the buoyancy of a pricked balloon.

The single biggest boost to the domestic economy would come from a marked fall in interest rates, which are admittedly low by the current standards of most countries but still high for West Germany. The Government has done what it can to contribute to an interest rate cut, by taking steps to reduce its borrowing

next year and so relieve pressure on the capital market. Even in the unlikely event of those steps being carried out exactly as planned, developments in the U.S. will be decisive. A higher U.S. budget deficit than expected, bringing continuing high U.S. interest rates, would not only reduce the Bundesbank's scope for cutting rates at home, but also reduce West German export prospects to those countries whose economies are also being depressed by high rates. They include the EEC states with whom Bonn does more than half its trade.

Even if West Germany does achieve 2 per cent growth next year, unemployment will rise further. This is partly because much of the growth would emerge from increases in productivity, and partly because more people are coming on to the labour market.

Many of them are the children of foreign "guest workers," who are seeking better jobs than the ones their parents were prepared to do. With an average of 1.4m jobless next year, West Germany would still have markedly fewer unemployed than Britain or France. But the potential for social unrest is serious all the same.

Rallis resigns today in readiness for elections

By Victor Walker in Athens

THE GREEK Government headed by Mr George Rallis is due to resign today to make way for a caretaker Government which will conduct general elections on October 18.

The Government to be sworn in on Thursday will again be headed by Mr Rallis but will include four non-party Ministers holding the portfolios of the Interior, Justice, Public Order and Press and Information. This is usual practice in Greece, as additional insurance of the irreproachability of elections.

Parliament will be dissolved on Saturday, officially launching the four weeks' campaign.

The main foreign policy issues will be Greece's continued membership of the European Economic Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, both of which are opposed by the opposition Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Professor Andreas Papandreu, and the Moscow-line Greek Communist Party (KKE), which together polled 35 per cent of the votes

in the 1977 elections.

On the home front, the main issue will be the economic situation and in particular inflation, which is still running at over 20 per cent for a third consecutive year.

Indicating the importance attached by the Government to Greece's EEC membership, Mr Rallis said over the weekend that in the event of his party's failing to secure an overall majority it would be prepared to enter a coalition only if the co-operating party or parties fully accepted the EEC accession treaty and agreed that Greece should stay in Nato.

Economically, the Prime Minister said, Greece had no future outside the EEC, while its departure from Nato would upset the balance of power in South-east Europe.

Defending his government's economic record, Mr Rallis said Greece's growth rate this year would be between 1.5 and 2 per cent.

Lisbon forecasts modest growth

By Diana Smith in Lisbon

PORTUGAL must accept more modest economic growth for the time being, although entry into the European Common Market on a reasonably strong footing remains an absolute priority.

That is the basic message of a 170-page government programme presented to Parliament yesterday by Sr Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister. Sr Balsemão's second coalition Cabinet of Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Monarchists and Independents was sworn in earlier this month.

The programme emphasises that the international recession, the strong dollar and high interest rates leave no option but to try to balance austerity with selective spurts to investment in top priority areas of agriculture, exports, import substitution and tourism.

The reformist and austerity-minded stamp of the new Economy Minister, Sr João Sâizeguro, is evident in the 64 pages dedicated to recovery and development of the

economy. The programme hints that the \$8bn (£4.4bn) foreign debt may be restructured. There will also be new incentives for foreign investment without which Portugal cannot develop. No details are given of these, but the programme says the present system will be streamlined.

New privately-owned investment societies, which are due to start soon, will be given special attention.

The Government will operate a prices and incomes policy and will seek a social contract based on increases in productivity and containment of wages within the bounds of annual inflation rates and the need to compete with the outside world.

The cumbersome public sector, which embraces several lame ducks surviving thanks to generous subsidies, will undergo "a drastic review of management techniques and very strict supervision of its spending programmes."

Portugal's \$1.3bn current accounts deficit in 1980, and



Sr Balsemão: EEC link a top priority

its forecast budget deficit of \$3bn for 1981, have already forced some cuts in public spending. The programme makes clear that there will be others.

The programme hints that the nationalised banks will be restructured.

Honecker visit leads to accords

By Laif Collett in Berlin

EAST GERMANY is banking on the success of its latest visit to a developing country, the one on the doorstep of the U.S.—Mexico. Honecker, East Germany's Communist leader, has returned from a State visit to Mexico which resulted in the most extensive series of agreements between that country and a Warsaw member.

A joint communiqué said two countries had reached "complete understanding" of everything from the North-South relationship to disarmament. East Germany last conducted only slightly more than 100m marks (\$22) worth of trade with Mexico, only 5 per cent of its total with developing countries.

Herr Honecker agreed President Jose Lopez Portillo that a new international economic order would have to be created. It should put an end to trade discrimination and protectionism, growing inflation, international currency financial problems and manipulation of raw materials and agricultural markets.

Herr Honecker wished President Lopez Portillo success in the forthcoming North-South summit meeting at Cancun, Mexico.

East Germany and Mexico signed agreements on scientific co-operation, co-operation in health services, agricultural and industrial co-operation.

East Germany sold textile machines to the Mexican subsidiary of a U.S. company, is to deliver some machines, the Mexican subsidiary of Volkswagen. The East German President dedicated a new shortwave station, supplied by his country as well as a telephone system for 45 villages and towns.

East Germany is hoping its material assistance will earn praise for Mexican foreign policy will eventually pay off in deals involving delivery of East German equipment and turbine plants for with Mexican oil.

Herr Honecker stressed many emigrants from Germany found refuge in Mexico.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Mr Falldin is trying to regain credibility, writes William Dullforce in Stockholm Sweden devalues to halt economic decline



Thorbjörn Fälldin:
a bold gamble

SWEDEN'S DEVALUATION of the krona yesterday accompanied by measures to dampen inflation and stimulate industrial output represents the Government's final effort to stop a deterioration in the country's economic performance which started during the early 1970s.

If this package does not work, the Swedish voters at the general election next September will certainly return the ruling Liberal alliance to power. It emerged six years ago when it broke 44 years of Social Democrat rule.

The devaluation is a bold move by Mr Thorbjörn Fälldin, the Prime Minister, and his minority Centre Party-Liberal Cabinet to restore the non-socialist's credibility and regain the public support the alliance has lost since the last election.

During the past eight years, Sweden has had one of the poorest economic records among industrial countries, although it has avoided mass unemployment.

But this is against a background of soaring growth in public spending and stagnation in industrial output and investment.

However, unemployment is now increasing. In August, it rose by 12,000 to 2.6 per cent of the labour force and redundancies forecast by companies indicate that it will go up swiftly this winter.

The figure given is for open or visible unemployment. It should be doubled to show true unemployment, taking into account the emergency work and retraining schemes organised by the Swedish Labour Market Board.

This upsurge in unemployment is caused by a slowdown in industrial output, particularly among export companies. The public sector can no longer create jobs to compensate as it has done throughout the past decade.

The latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) report on the Swedish economy reported an increase in public sector employment from 20.6 per cent of total employment in 1970 to 29.8 per cent in 1979, a level far above those reached in other OECD countries. During the same period, business investment in Sweden tumbled from 10.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 8.9 per cent, the lowest in the OECD.

Public spending has been growing by leaps and bounds, partly boosted by Government subsidies to ailing industries, to reach 64 per cent of GDP last year and an estimated 67 per cent this year.

At the same time, the Government's deficit has climbed to SEK 70bn (\$7.5bn) or 12.4 per cent of GDP, in spite of efforts to reverse the trend. The massive growth in the public sector and in the budget deficit has crowded out the labour and capital markets.

Meanwhile, heavy taxes have

boosted wage demands, curbed company profits and contributed to the steady decline in the competitiveness of Swedish industry.

Employers and the blue-collar trade union federation reached a two-year national pay agreement in February, providing for what seemed to be "moderate" wage increases of 7 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 1982.

In June, however, the Federation of Swedish Industries pointed out that unit costs of production would not improve compared with Sweden's main competitors. Moreover, the rise of the krona against most West European currencies as a result of the pull of the dollar meant that Swedish industrial costs were growing faster than those of its European competitors.

The export industry would continue to lose market shares and there was a serious risk that a further substantial part of industry would be knocked

out, the federation warned. It suggested that too the Government should reduce employers' social security charges, try for a social contract on national wage and salary cuts, or devalue the krona. The Government has plumped for devaluation as the medicine likely to work most quickly.

It has also taken the unusual course of combining devaluation with a reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT). In economic theory, an increase in VAT to hold back consumption would be the orthodox accompaniment to devaluation.

The cut in VAT has been interpreted as compensation to wage-earners for the loss in purchasing power caused by devaluation and is intended to stop the price index exceeding the threshold which would trigger new wage demands.

Government economists see the cut in VAT as giving the

Government the leverage to effect cuts in public spending, which it would otherwise not have dared to make for fear that it would be accused of creating unemployment. Mr Falldin is taking a bold and unorthodox gamble.

Cordial opening to talks on EEC reform

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

FOREIGN Ministers of the European Community agreed yesterday to work hard for early agreement in the most ambitious reform attempt in the Community's history despite the emergence of some obvious differences of priority.

The Ministers appeared anxious to avoid an early display of differences and reluctant to establish fixed positions on the issue of changing the Common Agricultural Policy and reforming the EEC budget. But the real negotiations will be taken up from today by the mandate group, chiefly comprising the ten's ambassadors to the EEC. In a series of weekly meetings, they will try to prepare the main lines of agreement on developing existing and new common policies, changes to the CAP and new budgetary arrangements for the decision by the Heads of Government in London in November.

All delegations found the European Commission's reform

proposals, published at the end of June, a basis for negotiations. But some strong reservations emerged.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, was tepid about the Commission's suggested mechanism for cutting Britain's payments to the EEC budget. He found "interesting" the commission's idea for financing rebates to the UK by reducing other countries' CAP receipts, but obviously preferred an unspecified arrangement which would decide "how the budget as a whole should affect the individual member state."

M. André Chander-nagor, France's Minister for European Affairs, acknowledged that the CAP must be re-organised and that budgetary distortions must be examined.

Both Mr Hurd and the West German Minister, Herr Peter Corrierer were firm in insisting that the 1 per cent value added tax ceiling on the EEC's budget must be maintained.

French concessions ease negotiations with Spain

BY OUR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT

A CHANGE of position by France yesterday enabled the European Community to maintain the appearance of wanting to carry forward negotiations on Spanish membership.

At the same time, France, with Italy in support, blocked for the time being the prospect of EEC trade concessions to Cyprus.

These developments, at a meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers, highlighted, once again, the way in which the Community's current internal debates on agricultural and budgetary reform are freezing relations with some third countries.

In particular, the gap between rhetoric on the desirability of Spanish membership and actual performance in negotiations has seemed to be getting wider over the past nine months. This has clearly impressed itself on the new

Government in Paris, whose tactical concessions yesterday will at least enable the EEC to table some proposals at ministerial level talks next month.

These will largely concern the statutes by which Spain and the Community should establish a customs union and by which Spain should apply the EEC's common external tariff.

France had been demanding that Spain should first undertake to introduce the value-added tax system by the time of its accession. But that demand will now be tabled with the customs union proposals.

France is continuing to insist that the EEC must sort out the main lines of change to its Common Agricultural Policy before negotiating the agricultural details of Spanish membership. But M. André Chander-nagor, France's Minister for European Affairs, did give the go-ahead for talks on subsidiary technical matters.

Italian jobless over 2m

By James Buxton in Rome

FRESH EVIDENCE of the effects of the recession on the Italian economy came yesterday with the announcement that the number of people seeking work passed 2m for the first time in July. This was an increase of about 200,000 over the figure for July 1980.

The official unemployment figure has remained fairly static for the past few months at about 1.8m, representing 8.8 per cent of the workforce. But the number of those seeking jobs has been swollen by the arrival of nearly 600,000 school and university leavers. Some 74 per cent of those seeking jobs are aged under 30.

The unemployment rate is 6.8 per cent in the Centre and North, against 13 per cent in the South. One of the blackest spots is Naples. Two policemen were wounded there yesterday when a mob of unemployed attacked a labour exchange.

The maintenance of a high level of employment is a priority for the Government as it resumes talks later this week with the trade unions and employers on curbing inflation.

Mauroy backs neutron research

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

FRANCE'S Prime Minister, M. Pierre Mauroy, yesterday reaffirmed his Government's commitment to continued experimental work on the country's neutron bomb project.

In a notably hardline speech delivered to the Institute for Advanced Studies on National Defence, M. Mauroy said it would not be rational to abandon the option of acquiring a weapon which could increase France's armoury of nuclear deterrents.

The country's deterrent capacity needed to be strengthened, he added. "That

is why the Government has decided to pursue its studies in this field."

The Prime Minister's speech comes only a month after the U.S. decided to go ahead with the development of a neutron bomb warhead.

While this move was attacked or greeted coolly by several western European countries, French Ministers gave it tacit approval, observing that the Soviet Union already had the capacity to make a similar device.

M. Mauroy made clear yesterday that France was still at the experimental stage with its neutron bomb technology and had made no decision yet as

to whether it would build or deploy it.

But he indicated that the Socialist Government did not intend to allow the country to be left behind technically in the nuclear arms field.

He went much further than others Ministers had done in emphasising the Government's support for a strong, independent defence policy. Evoking the decision of General de Gaulle to take the country effectively out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, he said this had only been possible because France had its own nuclear weapons. The new Government intended to continue with that policy.

Communists warn the Cabinet

PARIS — French Communist leaders have criticised Government policies and given warning that their support for the Administration of President François Mitterrand is conditional.

In separate public statements M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, and M. Roland Leroy, editor of the party newspaper, indicated that they expected urgent measures to

combat unemployment and inflation.

M. Marchais said in a television interview that the Government's nationalisation plans were insufficient, and that a wealth tax planned by the Prime Minister was inadequate.

M. Leroy, speaking at a rally, said Communists with their support in the Government, "but are not a party of government." Nor

would Communists be unconditional advocates of the Government.

Both leaders argued that the Socialists had won the elections because of the support of millions of Communists. Asked how long the Communists would stay in the Cabinet, M. Marchais said: "We are in the Government determined to do everything to make it succeed."

Similar schemes were in force in the 1960s and 1970s. The main problem was that it was

10,000 Poles volunteer to work in coal mines

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

TEN THOUSAND Poles have volunteered to work in the coal mines rather than do military service. A scheme aimed at boosting coal output has produced 7,500 civilian volunteers and a further 2,500 soldiers have opted out of the forces to go underground.

Polish coal mines have long suffered from a shortage of labour and the five-day week won by miners last autumn means that any plans to increase production hinge on additional workers. Coal production this year is 20 per cent down on 1980 and has led to costly cuts in export earnings and internal deliveries.

Total employment in the mines stands at 376,000 of which 239,000 work underground. There are 18,000 job vacancies.

A spokesman for the mining section of the Solidarity union yesterday welcomed the new scheme if it meant that young men going into the mines would stay there after their period of national service was over.

Similar schemes were in force in the 1960s and 1970s. The main problem was that it was

seen as a way of avoiding military service and the productivity of recruits was low, Solidarity said.

One of Solidarity's advisers has suggested that the union should back official efforts to increase prices of consumer goods in return for Government concessions on the demand that top industrial management be elected by workers.

Professor Marian Nasilowski, an economist, was speaking at the working group of delegates to Solidarity's national congress which is due to meet again at the end of the month. He predicted that the authorities were unlikely to give way without a struggle and that a general strike on the issue was possible.

Warsaw factory workers yesterday responded to concerted attacks from Communist-controlled Soviet trade unions by inviting Russian workers to Poland to see Solidarity in action.

An open letter said a visit would enable the Russians to make "a proper judgment."

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AMERICAN NEWS

Regan rejects calls for U.S. credit controls

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

MR DONALD REGAN, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, yesterday rejected calls for credit controls to force down interest rates by restricting demand for finance. Speaking in Chicago, he launched a major new drive to deregulate the American financial system. Mr Regan said that credit controls had never worked in the past and would not work now. They were an inefficient substitute for the marketplace and would lead to the sort of stop-and-go tinkering with the economy that had caused last year's high inflation.

Appeals for direct action to curb interest rates were made by a number of congressmen on their return to Washington from holiday last week. They were alarmed by the concern about interest rates they had found among their constituents.

Mr Regan said the best way to get interest rates down was to stick to President Reagan's economic programme—to lower inflation, to increase productivity and to encourage savings and investment.

In a series of speeches, Mr

WALL STREET retreated sharply when trading opened yesterday, signalling its disappointment with the modest military spending cuts announced by President Reagan over the weekend. David Lascelles writes from New York.

Bond prices, currently the best barometer of the market's mood, dropped by a point and short-term interest rates edged up again. Stock prices also dropped.

The financial community had hoped Mr Reagan would slash several times the \$13bn (£7.3bn) he has cut from military spending plans over the next three years in his efforts to bring the federal budget into balance by 1984. As Wall Street sees it, the size of the cuts means Mr Reagan will have to find the

rest of his savings in the politically-sensitive social programmes, which will be much harder.

The prospects for a sustained drop in interest rates do not appear to have improved. However, Crocker Bank of California yesterday joined the handful of banks which have cut their prime rate from 20½ per cent to 20 per cent.

Mr Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the President's council of economic advisers, said yesterday he saw evidence of a decline in interest rates, citing the fall of the Fed funds rate from nearly 20 per cent to 16 per cent in the last two months. The drop in this rate has not had much impact on other rates, most of which have risen over that period.

unreasonable nervousness about short-term changes in the money supply.

Under the Reagan tax-cutting programme, tax receipts would still rise by more than \$650bn between now and 1984, Mr Regan said. This, together with continuing control over the growth of spending, should bring the deficits under control.

"We have chosen to balance the budget through real growth, not through tax increases and inflation," he said.

In Chicago, Mr Regan called for a national debate on deregulating the country's financial system, which he said was governed by totally out-of-date restrictions.

Mr Regan said four major sets of regulations needed looking at: restrictions on interest rates originally intended to protect savings and loans institutions from competition; regulations that attempted to limit different types of financial institutions to specific activities; geographic limitations on banks and the growth of the regulatory agencies

themselves.

Many of these regulations stem from the Banking Act of 1933, the Glass-Steagall Act, which Mr Regan pointed out was designed to deal with quite different economic circumstances in an age before the modern telecommunications revolution.

For the banking system, Mr Regan said the key question was whether geographical restraints could be eliminated so as to increase competition and efficiency without causing undue concentrations of financial power.

He pointed out, however, that geographical restrictions had already been by-passed in many respects.

The restrictions "balkanised" the American financial system into 42,000 depository institutions, including 15,000 commercial banks, Mr Regan said. The rules separate depository institutions into different classes and forbid bank mergers and acquisitions across geographical boundaries inside the U.S.

Springboks avoid protesters in U.S.

CHICAGO — The South African Springbok rugby team slipped quietly into the United States yesterday evening, accompanied by its controversial tour of New Zealand.

The Springboks flew unannounced into Chicago shortly after daybreak without a single demonstrator in sight.

Opponents of the tour waited in vain in Los Angeles to protest against the arrival of the South Africans, who are in the U.S. to play three games on the way home from New Zealand.

They switched planes in Honolulu, boarded an American Airlines flight bound for Chicago and never left the aircraft when it stopped in Los Angeles.

Although their travel plans were kept secret, several television cameras, press photographers and a handful of reporters were on hand when the 36-member South African party arrived at Chicago's O'Hare airport.

Mr Johannes Claassen, team manager, said they had not expected to be met. He told the press: "We're tired but we're happy to be here."

Asked about the possibility that the Springboks' U.S. tour could lead to a boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics by the Soviet Union and black African countries, Mr Claassen said: "We're here to play rugby, not to get involved in politics."

Mr Tom Bradley, Los Angeles Mayor, and the Los Angeles Olympic organising committee both urged the U.S. Government to ban the South African team because of a possible boycott.

Reuter

Reagan starts to lobby senators over Awacs deal

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan yesterday opened his personal lobbying campaign to persuade the U.S. Congress to approve the sale of \$8.5bn (£4.6bn) worth of Awacs (Advanced Warning and Control Systems) radar aircraft and jet fighter equipment to Saudi Arabia.

Indications are that the final outcome on Capitol Hill will be very close.

Mr Reagan invited 27 Senators believed to be undecided on the controversial arms deal—which has been criticised by Mr Menachem Begin, Israel's Prime Minister—to the White House, as Senator Alan Cranston, the Democratic Whip and leader of the anti-Awacs lobby, conceded that the President's formidable powers of personal persuasion could tip the balance.

But Senator Cranston said he counted 51 votes, a majority of one in the Upper House, at present against the Awacs sale. Both the House and Senate must pass resolutions of approval to block the sale within 30 days from the date of formal notification by the Administration.

This notification would come toward the end of this month, State Department officials said.

The White House has virtually abandoned hope already of getting the Awacs deal past the House, where traditional pro-Israeli sympathy coincides with an opposition Democratic majority of 50 seats.

On his current trip to the U.S., Mr Begin stopped short of calling on Congress outright to veto the Awacs deal, a unusual inhibition for the forthright Israeli Premier.

Mr Begin apparently judged that such a call might be politically when he had just from the Reagan Administration a promise of "strategic co-operation" against Soviet expansionism in the Middle East.

But Mr Begin has stressed repeatedly his view that no precise link exists between Awacs and U.S.-Israeli military co-operation. The latter was not approval for the sale, he said, within 30 days from the date

Israeli Labour Party attacks pact with U.S.

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S MAIN opposition party has sharply criticised Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, for agreeing to mute his opposition to the U.S.-Saudi Arabia arms deal in return for an ill-defined agreement on strategic co-operation between the U.S. and Israel.

The opposition Labour Party's political committee said yesterday it regarded the outcome of the Premier's visit to Washington as "totally unacceptable and dangerous for Israel."

The proposed military strategic co-operation, which is still vague in nature, is being attacked here as more likely to be the Israel's hands than to provide real aid.

On the other hand, the Arab states have condemned the pact as likely to reinforce Israeli intransigence on the Palestinian issue.

The U.S. administration has, however, spoken of a much more modest programme including joint naval exercises, the pre-positioning of military medical supplies in Israel and some contingency planning for regional emergencies.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, said Mr Begin's handling of the Saudi arms deal was totally unacceptable "because for the first time an Arab country will be getting more sophisticated weaponry than Israel."

Foreign loans give Jamaica the kiss of life, writes Canute James in Kingston
Seaga seeks to resuscitate ailing economy

MR EDWARD SEAGA, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, is quite candid about the state of the island's economy and what his Government has to do to pull it out of a slump.

"We are not involved in giving birth to a new child. We are involved in reviving the dead," Mr Seaga said recently of the Jamaican economy.

His efforts at resuscitation are apparently being successful. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bank of Jamaica reported recently that the Jamaican economy could record real growth this year.

Mr Seaga said that at worst, the economy could record zero growth this year, and at best in excess of 2 per cent.

If even the more modest forecast is realised, it will be no small feat by Mr Seaga's 10-month old administration. The Jamaican economy declined by 5.4 per cent last year, the seventh consecutive year of decline.

When the present Government replaced the Social Democratic administration of Mr Michael Manley last October, Mr Seaga, who is also Finance Minister, inherited an economy

which bankers said was on the verge of collapse. An increasing oil bill, servicing a \$1.6bn (£880m) foreign debt, with stable and declining earnings from exports left Jamaica chronically short of foreign exchange to finance imports.

Arrears on short-term payments stood at \$550m (£302m). There were shortages of imported consumer goods including food and the manufacturing sector, faced with an inability to import raw material and machinery, was operating at only 40 per cent capacity.

Now, says the Prime Minister, the IMF and the Central Bank report that there has been significant growth in the construction sector, non-government services, the distributive trades, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries. Total exports have increased by 9 per cent in the first six months of this year.

Tourism, Jamaica's largest foreign currency earner (\$241.7m last year) increased by 10 per cent in July and 15.5 per cent last month, over the same period last year.

The IMF and Central Bank projections were made public a

few days after the Bank of Jamaica had reported that the performance of the economy in the first five months of this year had been "disappointing" and that the economy was "depressed." The bank said afterwards, however, that there had been signs of recovery since April, which marks the start of the Government's efforts to rebuild the economy.

The first kiss of life for the island's economy came from the IMF, after the Prime Minister sought to improve relations with the fund, broken off last year by his predecessor. Mr Manley had unilaterally terminated talks with the IMF on new loans, saying its conditions would worsen Jamaica's economy. With the rupture, sources of foreign financial support dried up.

Jamaica has since obtained a \$650m three-year extended fund facility from the IMF and a \$48m compensatory financing facility.

The second kiss of life is coming from several Western countries, including the U.S., Canada, Britain and West Germany, which comprise the

JAMAICA		1977	1980
Gross Domestic Product		\$693.7m	\$583.8m
Population		2.16m	
Net external debt		\$419.5m	\$488m
Major Exports:			
Alumina		\$211.7m	\$287m
Bauxite		\$83.4m	\$110.5m
Sugar		\$21.3m	\$23m
Exports		\$430.7m	\$519.4m
Jamaica Dollar Exchange Rate:			3.1655 = £
% of total exports			
Caribbean Group for co-operation in Economic Development			
The group is giving Jamaica \$400m in loans this year.			
All this is expected to hasten economic recovery, but the Government feels that the funds are not coming in fast enough.			
Although it will have access to just under \$1bn in loans this year, most of this will be available only in the last few months of the year. Conse-			

quently, Jamaica has obtained bridging finance in the form of 180-day credits from some North American banks.

Several banks, owed several million dollars by the island, recently agreed to refinance \$105bn of the loans, and grant a new \$70m loan.

Such positive indications, with Mr Seaga's optimism about the ability of the economy to recover, are threatened by factors over which the Government has very little control.

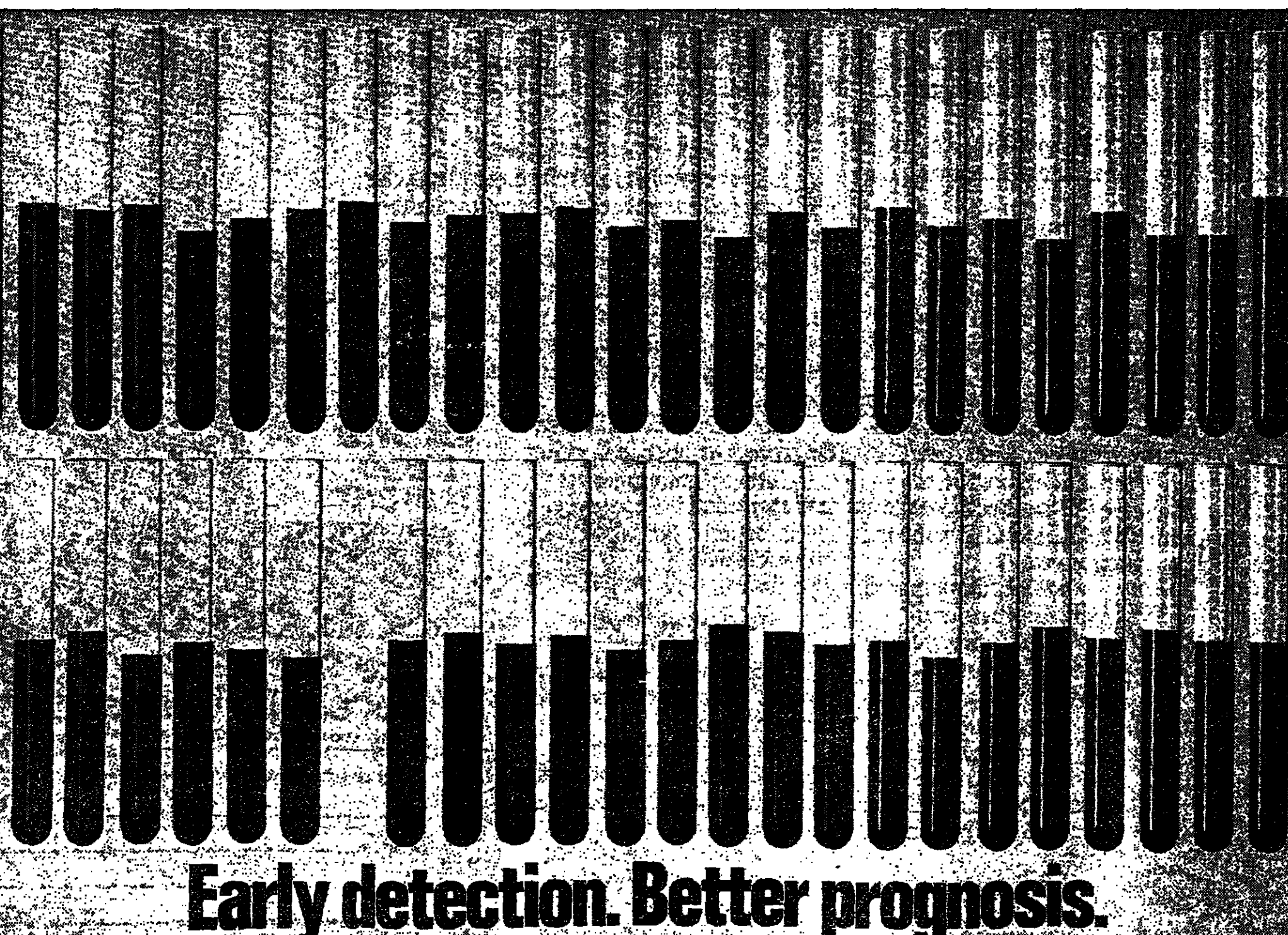
Tourism, for example, although expected to do better than last year, is suffering from the U.S. air traffic controllers' dispute and the growing strength of the dollar against European currencies.

The bauxite industry, the island's second major foreign currency earner will decline this year, after earning \$205m last year.

The sugar industry, which lives on exports to Britain, has been hit by poor management, bad weather and disease.

Banana production was crippled last summer by a hurricane, which wiped out 90 per cent of the island's plantations.

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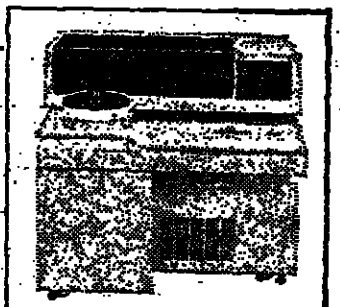
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OVERSEAS NEWS

THE NORTH-SOUTH DEBATE

Summit promises a new sense of direction

Gandhi under fresh threat

By K. K. Sharma in New Delhi

INDIAN OPPOSITION leaders launched a fresh attack on Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, yesterday over alleged involvement in illegal fundraising activities.

The opposition gave notice in the Lok Sabha (lower house) of a motion charging Mrs. Gandhi with breach of privilege and an uproar that halted business for more than an hour.

The row, which has seriously embarrassed the Prime Minister and her ruling Congress Party, concerns allegedly illegal fundraising activities by Mr. A. R. Antulay, who was hand-picked by Mrs. Gandhi as chief minister of the economically powerful Maharashtra state.

Mr. Antulay is said to have established a number of trusts in Mrs. Gandhi's name as a way of raising funds. The allegations reflect badly on Mrs. Gandhi, and underscore concern about the way Mr. Antulay and chief ministers in the eight other states where the Congress Party holds power have been conducting affairs.

Mrs. Gandhi has chosen all the party's office-bearers, mainly on the grounds of loyalty to her. Political or administrative ability has been a secondary consideration, leading to claims that many are inept or corrupt.

Mrs. Gandhi has protected Mr. Antulay, but observers think it is a matter of time before he is asked to resign. The Prime Minister has already dropped



Trevor Humphries

three of her state chief ministers, and Mr. Antulay's resignation is likely to trigger a greater shake-up.

The opposition has made Mr. R. Venkataraman, the Finance Minister, and Mr. Antulay the target of its attack so far. This is the first time it has brought Mrs. Gandhi within its range.

The grounds for the motion are not known and a ruling on it by the Speaker is expected within days.

Mrs. Gandhi has remained silent in the last couple of weeks that the scandal revolving around the fund raising has dominated proceedings in both Houses of Parliament.

She has been criticised for not clearing up the question of whether she consented to the trust being named after her. This was denied by Mr. Venkataraman last week and he faced a privilege motion when the English-language newspaper, Indian Express, published a photograph of Mrs. Gandhi presiding over a function in Bombay when the trust was launched.

The chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) has not admitted the privilege motion, but the opposition yesterday persisted in its attempts to raise the issue.

Reference of the motion to the privileges committee would mean a parliamentary inquiry into the formation of the trusts.

Iran's army confident after year of war

By Terry Pavey, recently in Ahwaz

SIX CHILDREN playing in a side street yesterday died in Ahwaz, capital of Iran's war-torn Khuzestan province in the south-west, killed by a shell fired from an Iraqi 152 mm howitzer 40 km from the city.

They were among the latest victims of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq now almost a year old.

As the shells exploded in Ahwaz, women from neighbouring villages who were in the city selling fresh fruit and vegetables at the roadside yagourt at the roadside rushed for cover. Gathering up their goods and their black dresses they ran, screaming abuse in Arabic at Iraq's leader. "Why does he kill us like this?" said one woman. "We are not soldiers. We are just poor Arabs."

Before the war began, Ahwaz was a thriving industrial city of more than 600,000. Last year many of these people left and the community remaining is poorer and predominantly Arab-speaking.

In the war's initial stages, a revolt by Iran's Arab minority was said to be part of Iraq's overall strategy. This now appears forgotten.

Travelling across the province, one is struck by both the good spirits and the vastly improved organisation of its defenders.

"We are here to win the war and we will destroy the Iraq forces," said Lt. Col. Javad Hassibi, officer commanding the third brigade of Iran's main division.

Looking down on to Bostan, a small town 20 kilometres from the border, Col. Hassibi claimed: "It may take us time, but we are sure we will win."

In the last eight months, Iranian forces have painstakingly gained ground in this region west of Ahwaz and around the much fought-over town of Susangerd. In a series of offensives spanning the last seven months, the most recent of which was 10 days ago, Iranian forces have been pushed back some 40 kilometres.

The colonel said Iranian losses had been high. Iraqi counter-attacks have to be handled by the infantry and revolutionary guards, because "we can't afford to lose a single Chieftain tank."

As we crossed the desert plains in an armoured personnel carrier on the way to the forward position, Iraqi shells fell close by time and again. The smell of cordite lies heavily over the Iranian front line, manned mainly by revolutionary guards with regular troops backing them up with artillery, tanks and mortars a little way behind. Down in the plains, a considerable number of Iranian tanks lay behind earth works, ready for the next move forward.

Destroyed Soviet-built T-54 and T-62 tanks could be seen in quite large numbers. One officer said that in the latest push towards Bostan 173 tanks had been knocked out, 200 soldiers killed, and a further 56 captured.

There seemed to be a restlessness among senior officers for a freer hand to pursue the war, rather than any feeling that political considerations would justify playing the matter quietly for the time being.

Further south around the oil city of Ahwaz, the front line seemed much quieter. Smoke from the giant refinery, still blazing after one year, rose up in three columns, but the city no longer seemed under threat.

After one year of shelling and the unavoidable neglect of war, it is clear that much damage has been done but that Ahwaz is not a destroyed city.

GOVERNMENTS WANDER today without a sense of economic direction. As the certitudes of the post-war era have one by one disappeared, heads of State seem to have lost their bearings. Countries are turning in upon themselves, failing to understand national problems in their international setting and failing to respond to them with an appreciation of overall global needs.

There is an urgent need for a new framework for internationalism in the 1980s and beyond; but it is not emerging. Even before World War II ended, Keynes and White were laying intellectual foundations for the economic internationalism of the post-war era. Where are their successors today? Not just the post-Keynesian theorists, but the new internationalists?

The Third World has groped its way towards the still rudimentary concept of a new international economic order.

The West has largely rejected it — and offers nothing in its place — while the old order is everywhere in disarray. In eight years of North-South dialogue, the North has produced hardly any new ideas; it has merely dismissed the South's proposals.

Sapped

The world economy is now being sapped by the worst crisis for half a century. Industrialised nations wrestle with inflation, while unemployment rises and growth remains sluggish.

Catastrophe threatens the poorest countries, where annual incomes are no more than two weeks' unemployment benefits in the EC. Meanwhile, military expenditure by East and West already exceeds \$500bn (£275bn) a year. The developed world spends more on means of destruction than nearly 2½bn

people in the developing countries can spend on survival. Efforts were made in the 70s to negotiate changes in economic relationships which would lead to greater equity between nations. As the economic crisis deepened, it became clearer that such changes were necessary not only to help the poor but also to assist the rich. But it has been easier to agree upon the growing interdependence of the world economy than to face up to its implications; to acknowledge that the recession is worldwide than to accept worldwide solutions.

Why are countries still so blinkered by nationalism in this era of interdependence? One answer is that to win elections politicians feel compelled to promise better economic times. To project political machismo, they convince their electorates (and sometimes even themselves) that by their own unaided efforts, by the infallibility of their economic philosophy and its resolute transposition through domestic policy,

they can deliver better times. To admit the relevance of the global factor is seen somehow to admit to being less than effective or to imply that their ideological platform may be flawed.

Current political management of the democratic process is leading it to work against internationalism. This is not only true in the North. Even in the South, where external constraints on development are so obvious, there are some who look askance at the external dimension. Hence the curious point of contact between northern ideologues who disparage the North-South dialogue and those in the South who call for "delinking" from the global system.



Dialogue between developing nations and the industrialised world needs to return to the Keynesian economic internationalism of the post-war era, writes Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General (right). The North-South Summit in Mexico next month will have a special responsibility to improve negotiations between increasingly interdependent economies, he argues.

But the UN is not something apart. It is governments which have allowed it — even encouraged it — to grow away from its role. The UN can still be an invaluable forum, yet governments show little sign of being ready to strengthen it. Here again we need a new vision, a renewed sense of purpose, responsive to changed circumstances.

There is some consolation in the evolving processes of summitry. The ambience of political discussion at a summit can produce results otherwise beyond grasp. The "Rhodesia problem" could not have been solved without a summit. The Lusaka accord could not have been pre-negotiated by a committee of cabinet secretaries. The "risks" of summitry are mostly feared by those who guard the status quo.

The Commonwealth, which

to the status quo. The most negative departmental view determines national positions and the most negative national position determines the North's collective stance.

When the industrialised countries proceed only at the pace of the slowest among them, is it any wonder that the North-South dialogue marks time? Progress is not helped by the contrastingly radical trend in the South, where the most radical position becomes the norm of the developing countries.

The institutions and systems established early in the post-war era changed the world. But they stand now in need of change themselves. All is not well, in particular, with the United Nations, which in many areas has become ritualistic, inbred and increasingly technocratic.

All are to blame — East and West, North and South — for the UN's image of endless, tedious, tiresome and ultimately self-defeating dialogue involving more than 6,000 meeting a year in New York and Geneva alone — and im pages of documentation.

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The Commonwealth, which

Spirit

There was a glimmer of recognition at the Ottawa Summit of industrialised countries that the crisis facing the North is bound up with the problems of the South. This fact must be more clearly recognised in Mexico and acted upon. The nations meeting in "Cancun" must agree on the start of long deferred global negotiations. They must agree to work more assiduously than in the past for success in those negotiations. They must acknowledge that an acute economic crisis demands emergency action, particularly in the areas of trade, financial flows, energy and food. These nations must also agree to continue to work together, informally but with a sense of urgency.

Above all, this meeting must help the springs of political improvisation to flow again, help to revive the spirit of internationalism of the early post-war period, help to inspire an intellectual framework relevant to modern problems and world opportunities.

Lagos brings in austerity package

By Mark Webster in Lagos

THE NIGERIAN Government has announced a series of austerity measures designed to cut public expenditure and save foreign exchange.

The cuts are its first attempt to reduce expenditure since oil exports began to slump in the first half of this year. Last month they were down to an estimated 770,000 barrels a day (b/d).

The measures include a freeze on public sector appointments with various left unfulfilled except in "exceptional circumstances" and a ban on overseas trips by civil servants without presidential permission.

Trade and other agreements in future will be signed by Nigeria's diplomatic representatives abroad.

The other measures, published in a government circular, relate to controls on the buying of vehicles and furniture by government departments, and the use of direct telephone lines.

The circular repeats the government's determination to withhold 30 per cent of capital expenditure in line with the anticipated shortfall in oil revenue.

End support for Mobutu, West urged

By David Buchan in Washington

THE WEST should abandon its "blind and uncritical" support of the regime in mineral-rich Zaire, Mr. Nguzu Karl-Bond, President Mobutu's former Prime Minister and now his chief opponent in exile, will tell Congress today.

Mr. Nguzu, who, with various interruptions in jail, served three times as President Mobutu's Foreign Minister before resigning this year as Prime Minister, hopes to convince the Reagan Administration that backing for the Mobutu regime no longer serves western interests.

Outlining the testimony he will give to the House Africa subcommittee today, Mr. Nguzu charged that President Mobutu had broken the assurances given to the U.S. and Western powers to prevent a recurrence of the 1977 and 1978 Shaba insurrections.

Mr. Nguzu has alleged that President Mobutu misappropriated more than \$100m (£56m) in international aid last year and complained that the International Monetary Fund's supervision of Zaire's Central bank and Finance Ministry had broken down.

Japan plans new weapons

TOKYO — The Japanese Defence Ministry plans four new weapons systems, including a tank, at a cost of ¥58.5bn (£139m), the Ministry said.

A ground-to-air missile is to be developed by 1987 at a cost of ¥20bn with the help of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation.

The Ministry is seeking an initial budget of ¥7.8bn next year to develop a prototype missile within three years.

A battle tank will be developed at a cost of ¥25bn

by 1988 to replace the tank now used by the army.

An initial budget of ¥7.1bn is sought to build a prototype over three years from next year. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which makes the present tank, is expected to be main contractor, the Ministry said.

It plans to develop a laser-guided anti-tank missile at a cost of ¥8bn by 1989.

A new system will be developed to mount the existing 35 mm anti-aircraft machine gun on tanks at a cost of ¥3.5bn. Reuter

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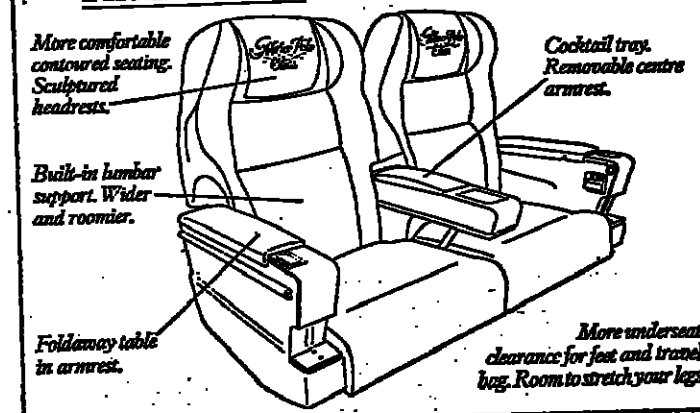
It took us some time to find exactly what we were looking for, and when we did we found it also had longer armrests with their own built-in woodgrain table. And at least one other airline has chosen this design for its First Class cabins.

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Dutch to double financing in Fokker-Douglas venture

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE DUTCH Government has revealed it is prepared to provide F1.7bn (£246m) worth of backing for the 150-seat airliner now being developed by Fokker and McDonnell Douglas of the U.S. This is more than twice the amount of F1800m which the Government had said in May it was willing to supply.

Progress on the project has been so favourable that the Government is prepared at this stage to commit itself to considerable pre-financing, provided its conditions are ultimately met. Mr. Gijb van Aardenne, the outgoing Minister of Economic Affairs said in a letter to the Standing Parliamentary Economic Committee.

The Government will provide F1800m worth of credits and guarantee commercial loans of up to F1900m, in the period 1982-1990, the Minister said. The loans will be repaid in the

form of royalties on each aircraft sold.

The more than doubling of the amount of support since the Government first announced it would provide F1800m does not, however, represent an upgrading of the project, the Economics Ministry said. It is merely a result of the fact that in May the full details had not been worked out.

The Government is prepared to start providing the funds around the end of the year if the project goes according to plan. Meanwhile, it will provide an extra F153m to help fund the project definition phase of developing the MDX-100. This phase, which should originally have been completed by mid-1981, will now take until the end of the year.

Fokker will take the leading role in designing the new aircraft and in buying in components while McDonnell Douglas

will head the sales effort, the Minister revealed. This is the first concrete indication of how the two companies would share responsibility for the project.

The Government confirmed that the companies are for the time being still working on the basis that the MDX-100 will be assembled at two centres — one in the Netherlands and one in the U.S. Individual components will, however, come from only one source.

Good progress has been made in the four areas which the Dutch Government set as pre-conditions for its backing the project, and work on designing the aircraft is well advanced.

Fokker has agreed in principle to work with McDonnell Douglas, and the two companies have jointly asked a Japanese industrial consortium to co-operate. An answer from Japan is expected by the end of the year.

£14m Hong Kong ship order goes to Britain

By Andrew Fisher, Shipping Correspondent

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS has won a £14m order from a Hong Kong shipping company bringing the total value of orders from shipowners in the Colony this year to £70m, representing nearly 200,000 deadweight tonnes.

The order, for two 15,000 dwt general cargo carriers, was placed with the state-owned UK company, by Carrian Shipping, British Shipbuilders' chairman, Mr. Robert Atkinson, said.

The two vessels will be constructed by Smith's Dock of Middlesbrough. In July, Sunderland Shipbuilders announced a £12m order from the Hong Kong-based Kischin-chand Chellaram group for a 31,000 dwt bulk carrier.

Mr. Atkinson said the order from Carrian would provide Smith's Dock with continuity of new shipbuilding work well through 1982. It also meant that workload prospects at the group's merchant yards were now more stable overall.

UK in fresh vehicle talks with Japan

By John Griffiths

BRITAIN'S Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and its Japanese counterpart, JAMA, are to hold further talks in London next week on the level of Japanese commercial vehicle imports to the UK.

The talks, at working-party level, follow on from the full-scale SMMT-JAMA talks at Sapporo in July, when the two sides failed to agree about a UK demand that Japanese makers restrict such imports.

Shipments of light commercials — Japan has agreed informally not to enter the market above 3.5 tonnes — were suspended last month.

This was after an estimated 24,500 vehicles had been shipped in the first seven months of this year, just under 1,000 less than in the whole of 1981.

OECD EXPORT CREDITS DISPUTE

Japan resists 'plan to boost rates'

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR IN TOKYO

JAPAN is strongly resisting what it claims is a plan to discriminate against low-interest-rate countries in the forthcoming revision of the OECD code on the extension of export credit to developing countries.

The code, known as the "Gentleman's Agreement," specifies the minimum rates at which member countries "normally" finance exports of industrial plant and other bulky items, as well as limiting the periods over which loans can be repaid. Discussion has been under way for two years on an upward revision of Japan's rates which would partially close the gap between subsidised export finance and commercial lending rates in

OECD member countries. Japan has objected to the increase on the ground that its own commercial lending rates would be lower than the proposed new "Gentleman's Agreement" rates. This would mean that the Japanese would, in effect, be charging a levy on export finance to developing countries while Japan's competitors in the West would be subsidising their loans.

Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry claims that the fairest solution to the export finance problem would be to introduce a differential rate system (DRS) under which each exporting country would be allowed to issue loans in its own currency at a fixed margin below its

commercial lending rate. The Japanese admit that such a system would mean far cheaper loans from Japan than from other OECD member countries. They argue, however, that the attractions of cheap yen finance for importers would be partially counteracted by the deterrent of borrowing in a currency which is expected to appreciate.

Failing acceptance of the DRS Japan argues that countries with low commercial interest rates be entitled to charge those rates on plant export finance to developing countries and should not be "forced" to impose the higher rates set out in a new gentleman's agreement.

The Japanese oppose an EEC

proposal which would oblige low-interest-rate countries to add a specified margin to their commercial rates.

Japan and Switzerland are the only countries according to MTI which would be affected by the EEC proposal.

A decision on the matter is to be made at a meeting early next month at the OECD's Paris headquarters. Japan's commercial lending rates of around 8.5 per cent are roughly on a par with the rates set out in the OECD code, whereas U.S. rates are much higher. MTI officials believe the U.S. wants the new OECD rates to be set at around the same level as the interest rate on U.S. Treasury bonds.

GATT may act over import curbs

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT, RECENTLY IN STRESS, ITALY

INSPECTION TEAMS from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) might visit countries taking emergency action against foreign supplies to protect industry hurt by imports. They could check on particular domestic policies aimed at helping some industries to adjust to new levels of competition.

This suggestion, based on the precedent of International Monetary Fund teams scrutinising the economic policies of loan applicants, has been put forward by international economists meeting at the weekend in Stresa.

At a conference organised by the Trade Policy Research Centre of London, they were discussing the strains on the world trading system caused by protectionism and the sort of action legally open to countries seeking temporary relaxation of internationally agreed trading disciplines.

The meeting was called to make a contribution to the growing debate and to the independent preparatory thinking involved in the groundwork for the GATT ministerial conference, embracing 86 nations, to be held next year.

The ministerial conference will be seeking a political way out of the disorder creeping over the international trading system. This disorder has placed the trading system

under greater strain than at any time since the GATT was drawn up after World War II.

There has been a tendency to break away from the liberal trading disciplines embodied in the GATT. Alongside the formal agreement, a complex of parallel arrangements has developed which prevent the free movement of goods. This runs from the international multilateral arrangement (MFA), which effectively controls the textile exports of developing countries, to less formal accords of the type which, for example, define the Japanese share of the UK car market.

Open trade concept

Leaders of the major trading nations still espouse the concepts of open trade which the GATT was designed to promote. But if the open trading system is to survive, many economists believe, it will be necessary both to reduce the number of trade restraints tied into the complex of parallel arrangements and to seek a new definition of the conditions under which restraints might be permissible.

This is the question of safeguards for domestic industry hurt by increased imports. The economists at Stresa were seeking to define a legal framework for the use of safeguards that would not at the same

time retard the process of adjustment by industries which have lost their competitive edge.

The GATT already contains a safeguards clause, the vaguely couched Article 19. But it has not often been used. Article 19 permits emergency action — usually withdrawal of tariff concessions or quotas — when imports cause serious damage to domestic industry. But injury is not defined and there is no time limit on the duration of emergency action. The withdrawal of tariff concessions or the imposition of quotas has to be applied to all exporters of the given product and they may seek compensation.

The negotiation of compensation and the need to make the use of Article 19 generally rather than selectively has made its use unattractive: it has usually been easier to wink at the GATT rules and reach a bilateral agreement, thus eroding the fundamental principle of the GATT that a country should not discriminate between trading partners.

The economists at Stresa started from the point that, in the application of Article 19, the free trade principle must remain intact. But at the same time, in the interests of bringing the use of safeguards back into the international legal fold, they suggested that the compensation rule should be relaxed so that countries taking emergency

action would have, in effect, a free run for three years.

They further suggested:

- A definite time limit on emergency action which, if exceeded, would provoke retaliation;
- A clear statement of the circumstances leading to the emergency action with the nature of the injury to domestic industry albed at a public enquiry so consumers' views can be heard;
- The idea of the GATT inspection team to see, for example, that the protected industry is not increasing capacity;
- No use of quotas to protect industry, only tariffs, so that the costs of the emergency action are visible.

Immediate impetus

The immediate impetus towards devising an internationally agreed and workable Article 19 may come not from EEC or U.S. fears of Japanese competitiveness but from the textile producers of the developing world.

If the present negotiations for a new MFA break down, which is possible, then developing countries may decide to abandon the arrangement altogether, throw over their restraint and take their chances in an open market.

Such a threat to the protected textile industries of the EEC could set off intense negotiations about application of safeguards.

Swedes study Norway gas link

BY WESTERLY CHRISTNER IN STOCKHOLM

THE SWEDISH Government has commissioned the state power board, Vattenfall, to conduct a study on various ways of taking natural gas from northern Norway. The project is expected to cost about SKr 75m (£8m) and take three years.

This spring, Norway and Sweden signed an energy/industry accord which includes sales of oil to Sweden — and which, presumably, would open the possibility of Sweden secur-

ing long-term gas deliveries on contract basis.

However, the Norwegian gas is not due to come into production until the beginning of the next decade.

Today, Sweden has no nationwide gas distribution infrastructure, although Sydgas, a regional power utility, is now hooking up with the Danish North Sea gas grid for residential heating in one area in the south.

Vattenfall is studying two alternatives for linking a Swedish pipeline network — both starting from northern Sweden — to the Danish grid.

The Swedish power board, working with Swedegas, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state controlled Svenska Petroleum Energy Company and Norway's Statoil, is scheduled to present the first part of the study and findings to the Government next January.

Finns share Indian plant order

BY LANCE KEYWORTH IN HELSINKI

OUTOKUMPU OY of Finland and Voest-Alpine AG of Austria have together won an order from Orissa Mining Corporation of India for a ferro-chrome plant with a production capacity of 50,000 tonnes a year of charge grain ferro-chrome. Outokumpu's share of the project is valued at about Fmk 35m (£4.4m). The contract is subject to Indian Government approval.

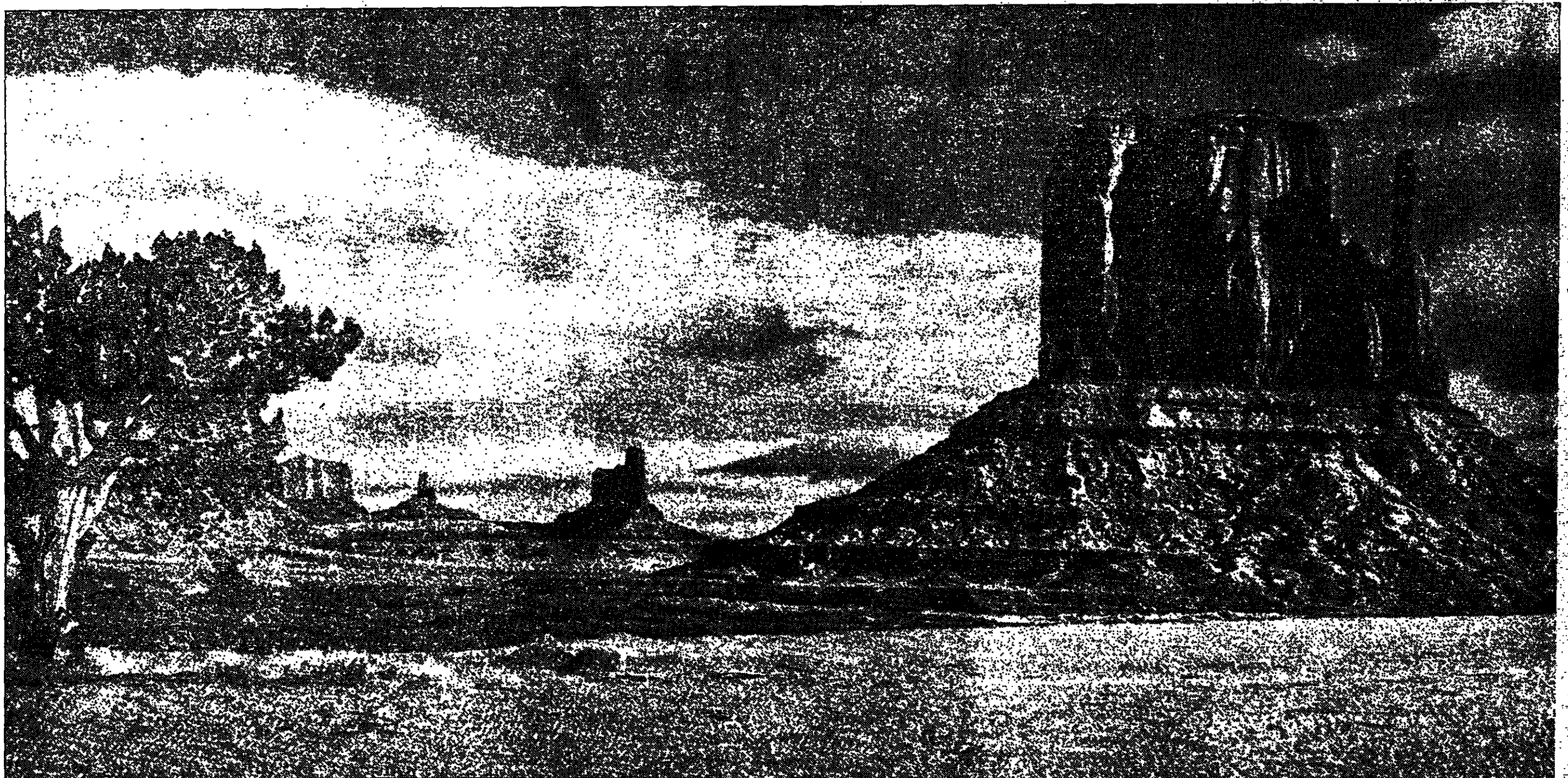
Outokumpu, the state-owned mining and refining company, has a ferro-chrome plant of about the same size in northern

Finland, and it is the process developed there that will be used in the Orissa project. The Finnish company has sold ferro-chrome plants to Greece, Turkey and the Philippines in the past two years.

The Finnish and Austrian companies have formed a consortium to manage the project planning and equipment procurements from non-Indian sources, and to supervise Indian equipment procurements. Valmet Oy, the Finnish state-owned engineering company,

has won an order for a newsprint machine from Augusta Newsprint Company of the U.S. The contract is valued at over Fmk 100m. The machine is to be delivered in December 1982.

The daily production capacity of the machine will be 645 tonnes of 48.5 G/square metre basis weight newsprint. The rated speed is 20.3 metres per second. Augusta Newsprint Company is a subsidiary of Abitibi Southern Corporation and Thomson Newspapers of Toronto.



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BARCLAYS

UK NEWS

Financial Times reporters look at the personalities involved in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet reshuffle

Joseph seen as 'insensitive'

FEW INDUSTRIALISTS will mourn the removal last night of Sir Keith Joseph from the Department of Industry, where he has been Secretary of State since the general election. While some have recognised his honesty and intellectual approach, most have become frustrated by his refusal to face up to their detailed problems.

So they will welcome the change, even though few of them know much about his successor, Mr Patrick Jenkin, apart from the 1973-74 miners' strike that people should conserve electricity by cleaning their teeth in the dark.

Sir Keith came to office, having designed the blueprint for the Conservative Government's economic policy, convinced that the reversion of the entrepreneur would revive the flagging fortunes of British industry.

For nearly two years after the election he continued to make this his central theme, unable to shift himself intellectually into a frame of mind that would accommodate either the realities of the recession or the massive amounts of state aid drained away into concerns like British Steel, British Leyland and British Shipbuilders.

Only now, as he leaves the department, are there signs that the entrepreneurial dream may have basis in reality. Although it is far too early to draw firm conclusions, the recent response to his department's small firms bank loan guarantee, scheme and the

spate of management buy-outs indicate that a revival of small businesses may be in the offing.

He believed that industry had to go, almost unaided, through the massive closures and redundancies of the past year or so. He therefore often seemed insensitive to detailed industrial problems, and businessmen—especially in the regions—believed that this insensitivity prevented him and the Prime Minister adjusting policies to prevent too much permanent damage to the country's industrial base.

From the start, however, he found himself unable to stick rigidly to his principled opposition to Government intervention in industry. He rapidly came to terms with having to keep various forms of automatic and selective aid for the private sector in being and during the past year approved fresh aid worth £50m to bolster up companies' research and development programmes, to encourage a more British-oriented public purchasing policy, and to aid fibre optic developments in the electronics field.

But his greatest problem remained the financial demands of the nationalised industries and, had he remained at the Industry Department, he would have been at the centre of current reviews of their relationships with the Government.

He will probably be happier away from the relentless problems of the Department of Industry, and the Government should benefit from the break with the past that the change signifies.

Prior shows ability to walk the tightrope

Mr James Prior very nearly did not get the job from which he has now been reshuffled into the Northern Ireland Department. His instinctive dislike of the economic policies of Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph was evident long before the 1979 general election, and it was far from certain that the shadow employment secretary would secure the post for which he had groomed himself.

In other words, Mr Prior has been living under pressure for a long time. The way in which he has been able to walk the tightrope (until now) suggests that there is a great deal more to Mr Prior than the Farmer film image with which he set out after his mentor Mr Edward Heath was deposed as Tory leader.

Perhaps it was this and his consequent emergence as a leader of the Cabinet dissidents that angered the right-wing backbenchers, and not merely his cautious line on trade union reform.

The unions may have found Mr Prior affable and likeable, if not always exactly on their wavelength. (He did, after all, open one meeting with the TUC by discouraging on the state of the grouse moors.)

But it would be wrong to suppose that the unions have liked even a tenth of the measures enacted during his time at the Department of Employment.

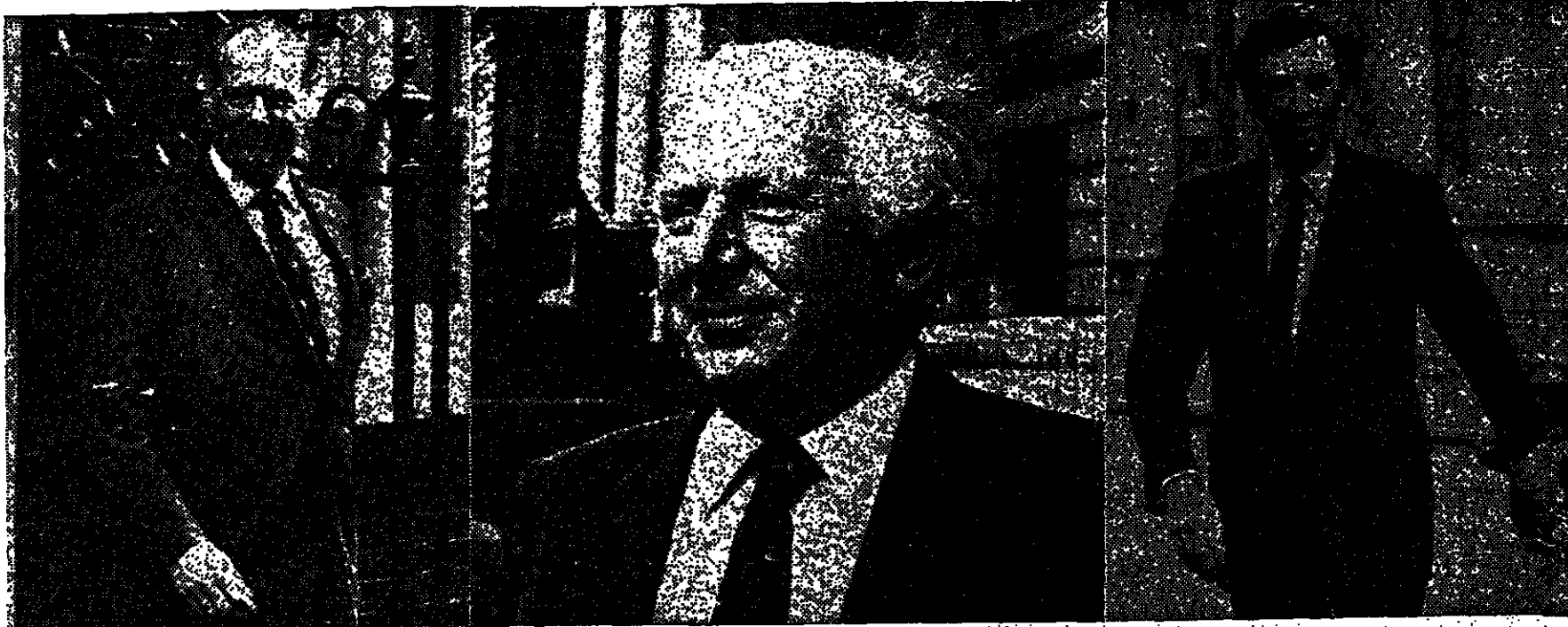
He presented the Employment Act, 1980, as a series of amendments to the existing labour law that would curb the most obvious abuses of union power without upsetting the whole industrial relations framework.

In this way, Mr Prior managed to put into effect some fairly fundamental changes. Certainly the TUC has never regarded the Employment Act as a minor piece of legislation.

Once this substantial measure was out of the way, Mr Prior wanted to let it settle down. But he was forced by the backbenchers and Mrs Thatcher to move again. His Department produced the green paper on trade union immunities, a document written in painfully neutral terms; it could be read as a case for doing nothing at all, or for sweeping legislative reform. Political circumstance, not the cold light of reason, was to decide how much was done.

He has also made himself unpopular with the TUC over his industrial training measures, in particular the pruning of the Industry Training Board.

One thing that Mr Prior has escaped, however, is any direct blame for Britain's high unemployment. For this he can presumably thank his scarcely disguised disagreement with the government's economic policymakers.



Mr Norman Atkins (left) leaves the Northern Ireland Office to become Lord Privy Seal. Mr James Prior (centre) takes his place, and Mr David Howell (right) becomes Transport Secretary.

Parkinson, free trade defender, to chair party

MR CECIL PARKINSON, 50, the Trade Minister who yesterday succeeded Lord Thorneycroft as chairman of the Conservative Party, brings with him 10 years' experience in Government and in Opposition as well as a hard-earned reputation as a defender of the Government's free-trade policies.

He was appointed Minister of Trade on May 7, 1979, following the election victory of the Thatcher Government and established himself quickly as an effective deputy to Mr John Nott, then the Secretary of State for Trade, and as a popular member of the Cabinet.

The strength of the Thatcher majority improved the effectiveness of the Trade Department as a tool for the promotion of

the British industrial effort overseas by allowing Mr Nott and Mr Parkinson more time to support trade promotions.

In his 28 months as Trade Minister, Mr Parkinson has become the most travelled member of the Thatcher Cabinet.

First as Mr Nott's deputy, and more recently as number two to Mr John Biffen, Mr Nott's successor, his specific responsibility was for developing trade policy, promoting exports and fostering commercial relations abroad.

An energetic speaker, he has been a popular figure at commercial gatherings. This has not always been an easy task as he has maintained a strong stance in defence of free trade and the need for foreign competition.

Jenkin's move to industry post well timed

MR PATRICK JENKIN, the new Industry Secretary, is leaving the Social Services Department at the best of all possible times for himself.

He has carried out a structural reform of the NHS and fulfilled his party duty to encourage the private sector—but there have been no real confrontations yet with the unions.

The department has not yet been required to share the main strain of deepening public expenditure cuts—a situation which is likely to change soon as his junior ministers have already warned.

Mr Jenkin, MP for Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford, is a 54-year-old lawyer noted for his invertebrate intellectual approach combined with an eye for intricate detail.

He was Financial Secretary to the Treasury in 1979-80 and was then promoted to be Chief Secretary (1979-80). Even in those days he was privately worried about the money supply but did not say so. For the last months of that Conservative administration, he was Energy Secretary and continued to shadow that brief from 1974 until 1976 when he switched to shadow health and social services, taking over that portfolio when the Conservatives were returned to power in 1979.

Mr Jenkin has some private experience of industry, having left the bar to hold a succession of jobs with Distillers from 1967 to 1970. He was elected to Parliament in 1964 and, within a year, had become an Opposition front-bench spokesman on Treasury, trade and economic matters.

One of Mr Jenkin's key achievements at the DHSS changes in the NHS.

Lawson—enthusiast rather than a rigid doctrinaire

BRIGIT, industrious, pugnacious. Different people would put the emphasis on different adjectives, but together they summon up a recognisable picture of Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary.

Starting off on the Financial Times, where he was features editor and a Lex writer, he was subsequently editor of the Spectator, and entered Parliament in 1974.

Those who know him well stress that he is really an enthusiast rather than a doctrinaire—or an ideologist. Although he may initially give the opposite impression, he is in fact a good listener.

As Financial Secretary to the Treasury, after the 1979 election, his main achievement was to lead a wholesale transformation in Government debt operations, which he saw as the main weakness in monetary control. Apart from more technical improvements, granny bonds were made available to all, eventually Bank of England oppo-

sition was worn down, and these reforms, which will be valuable to governments of all persuasions, were not to the taste of the more traditionally minded hard-money men, who thought this snatched of sleeping with the devil.

Outside economics, Lawson is also far from being a traditionalist right-winger. On the Vietnam War and took a strongly pro-Biafran line in the Nigerian conflict. Physically and temperamentally, he could not be more different from the lean and hungry monetarist of popular imagination.

He has no known view on energy policy. One would expect him to look for ways of mobilising private capital, but also to spring a few surprises in the way of ideas and even gimmicks. One would give a lot to be a fly on the ceiling at his first real encounter with Sir Dennis Rooke of the Gas Corporation.

How Ridley proved to be an excellent crisis manager

FOR THE past two years Mr Nicholas Ridley, the new Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has been in exile. After two decades on the back benches expounding to anyone who would listen to his quirky right-wing views about how the economy had to be run, he found himself appointed by Mrs Thatcher in 1979 to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to run Britain's interests in Latin America and the Caribbean.

That post has not been the most effective one from which to cry the virtues of the free-market, which is in the need to trim British trade union rights but this 52-year-old viscount's son turned engineer and banker has not complained. He has quietly done an outstanding job of crisis control

in an area where Britain's path is strewn with bear pits. The has been to organise the Argentines have been persuaded not to invade the Falkland Islands or eat about the platoon of Royal Marines which is its only garrison.

The coming week sees Belize, Britain's remaining colony on the American continent, acceded to independence with international guarantees and the continuing protection of 1,600 British troops.

The Falklands and Belize—together with larger questions of Caribbean development and the maelstrom of the Central American republics—have been Ridley's constant preoccupations. He has attracted much admiration over the way he has handled them.

Howell will look at energy through Treasury eyes

MRS THATCHER'S decision to replace Mr David Howell with Mr Nigel Lawson as Energy Secretary is viewed in the fuel and power industries as a logical move—given the close ties between the Energy Department and the Treasury.

Mr Howell, who becomes Transport Secretary, had many a rough ride in his dealings with the Treasury over energy-related issues. While a sincere, thoughtful campaigner he never emerged as a formidable force in policy-making.

At Mr Roger Lyons, national chemicals officer of the Association of Scientific and Managerial Staffs commented yesterday: "The Treasury has been baying-minding the Energy Department."

He was angry about the Government's abandonment of the £2.7bn North Sea gas gathering scheme—a project keenly supported by the Energy Department but scuppered largely by the Treasury, because insufficient private capital was forthcoming.

Mr Lawson, as the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, should be able to smooth some of the bumps on the ride between the two departments.

While he is unlikely to turn the Energy Department into a satellite of the Treasury, he will recognise the importance

of the energy industries—particularly North Sea oil producers—to the UK economy.

Thus he may add a new dimension to the Department's consideration of North Sea oil depletion policies. The UK is now producing substantially more oil than it consumes. Mr Howell was keen to "flatten the hump" of potential surplus production capacity in order to sustain a high level of oil output well into the 1990s.

Mr Lawson may be persuaded that for the sake of rising oil revenues, the country might be better off allowing a few years of net exports.

Similarly, the state energy undertakings administered by the Energy Department loom large in the Treasury's eyes. All are big investors. The National Coal Board has to be supported from public funds. Others—like British Gas and British National Oil Corporation—are making large and growing profits.

British Gas—with whom Mr Howell was always sparring—has already been told to sell its Wyth Farm oil field and gas appliance business. BNOC was persuaded (with the aid of some judicious appointments) to co-operate in a scheme to introduce a majority private holding. Mr Lawson may pursue these objectives more vigorously.

Tebbit expected to take tough line with unions

MR NORMAN TEBBITT, who takes over at the Department of Employment, has considerably increased his political stature during the past nine months when he has been one of the two ministers of state at the Department of Industry under Sir Keith Joseph.

His robust, outspoken style and his practical realism has made him a valued aide to Sir Keith. So good was their partnership, along side the other more left-wing Minister of State, Mr Kenneth Baker, that the working of the department improved considerably.

Mr Tebbitt agreed with Sir Keith's dislike of state aid and intervention in industry, but was realistic enough to see

that in many cases they were necessary—temporarily, perhaps. He was responsible for BL and British Steel and played a large part in negotiations over Nissan's proposed investment in the UK.

Described once by Mr Michael Foot as the "most studiously offensive" of MPs, a "semi-house trained polemic", Mr Tebbitt was a member of the original "Gang of Four" that organised Mrs Thatcher's leadership campaign.

A former airline pilot and prominent member of the pilots' union, he is likely to take a tough line with the trade unions. Before going to the Industry Department in January, he was a Minister of State for Trade.

Grudging Liberal activists prepare for alliance with former rivals

LIBERAL ACTIVISTS warned yesterday that vote by the party assembly tomorrow in favour of an alliance with the SDP should not be interpreted as a sign that the Liberals are prepared to divide up all their hard-won spoils with the new party.

They are using the full battery of media weapons available at party conferences: Press conferences, news letters, tapes, and even songs. Activists arriving in Llandudno for their annual conference have made it clear that, however enthusiastic Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, may be about his new-found allies, their own feelings about the Social Democrats are

tinged with a strong element of territorial jealousy.

Proudly producing figures to demonstrate the "grass roots revolution," which the Liberals have already achieved on their own, the Association of Liberal Councillors (ALC) insisted that they would not be a "push-over" for any political party.

As the ALC put it, "voting for the alliance tomorrow is the easy bit; the difficult bit is going to be making the alliance work."

At the beginning of what looks like the largest, and quite probably the most important, assembly in the party's history, virtually nobody was prepared to say yesterday that the alliance was a bad thing as such.

Most delegates already regard the alliance as a political fact of life. But Mr Steel's curiously insensitive admission on television on Sunday that he might be prepared to disown a Liberal candidate who stood against a more suitable SDP candidate yesterday produced a backlash.

The Liberator, which claims to be the organ for radical Liberals, warned yesterday that "just about every day cast further doubts on the credibility of the SDP as a suitable partner."

New recruits, it said, were increasingly "the dross which nobody else wanted."

At a Liberator Press conference, Sir Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the assembly com-

Elinor Goodman on attitudes at Llandudno to the SDP

mittee, warned that the tendency of the leadership to be "over-enthusiastic" about an alliance with the SDP was already tending to "strain loyalty and to divide the Liberals."

He acknowledged that, in certain circumstances, an alliance might be good for the country, but said he was still waiting to be convinced.

The target of 500 candidates, already set by the Liberals after the SDP came on the

scene, he said, still struck him as a reasonable base. If the two parties could reach further agreement on policy, then perhaps they could reach accord on some of the remaining seats.

All the signs were that, whatever guidelines the Liberal and SDP negotiating committee agree to send to local parties on dividing the seats between them, it will be the issue of who fights which seats which creates the most problems for the new alliance.

The problem seemed to loom largest when the local SDP party is dominated—as in some London constituencies—by former Labour right-wingers, whom the local Liberals have spent years fighting and have learned to hate.

One member of the Liberal Party in Newham, where a number of right-wing Labour councillors are expected to follow the example of the 16 Islington Labour councillors and defect to the Social Democrats, went as far as saying that Mr Steel could split the party if he tried to force the Liberals to co-operate with such people.

Mr Steel has no power to force local parties to do any-

thing. But his suggestion that he might be prepared to disown a Liberal candidate who stood against a more suitable SDP candidate certainly set a cat among the pigeons.

Mr Cyril Smith, the Liberal MP for Rochdale—who, with his only slightly less round mother at his side, has become one of the most attractive at Llandudno—said yesterday that any such attempt would be "catastrophic."

The ALC was equally appalled by the suggestion. Nevertheless, its attitude was not entirely unhelpful to Mr Steel. The association acknowledged that some of the 230 parliamentary candidates

already adopted by local parties might have to stand aside. It was essential, it said, to avoid a situation arising where Mr Steel might be forced to disown a candidate.

But its main message was directed at the SDP. The Liberals, it said, were willing to work in an alliance, but they were not prepared to be "walked over," and the SDP should respect the "proud history and long traditions" of the Liberals.

The association is one of a number of organisations to have tabled amendments to the main motion of the alliance tomorrow.

Gas project abandonment 'puts 5,000 jobs at risk'

BY SUE CAMERON
UP TO 5,000 jobs and up to £500m worth of orders could now be at risk as a result of the Government's decision to abandon the UK's planned £2.7bn North Sea gas gathering project, a trade union leader warned yesterday.

Mr Roger Lyons, national chemicals officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, spoke at a news conference of his "outrage and shame" at the Government decision. He is resigning from the Petrochemicals Sector Working Party—the industry's little Noddy—in protest.

Mr Lyons' resignation came on the eve of a key meeting of the gas gathering pipeline organising committee—which was established last summer when the Government originally gave the go-ahead to the project in principle.

British Petroleum, British Gas and the U.S.-based Mobil are all represented on the committee. They have spent over £8m on initial design studies for the scheme. This morning they will meet to decide whether or not

to disband. The feeling in the industry last night was that the committee will decide to stay in existence at least for the next few months.

The Department of Energy has said it might be possible for an integrated pipeline system to be built by the private sector.

The oil companies had objected to the leading role taken in the schemes that has just been abandoned. They also opposed the scheme on the grounds that BGC was not prepared to pay them enough for the gas.

Mr Lyons claimed yesterday that the interests of the UK petrochemical industry had been "overshadowed" by the powerful lobbies of the oil companies and of British Gas. The Government's decision amounted to a "squandering of the national heritage," he said. The UK was the one country in the world with oil and gas that was shutting down petrochemical plants.

Woolwich may scrap differential rates

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

WOOLWICH EQUIFFABLE, one of the UK's largest building societies, may scrap differential mortgage rates. This is the system by which those with larger mortgages pay higher interest rates.

Mr Alan Cumming, Woolwich's chief financial manager and Building Societies Association chairman, said the Woolwich might introduce a standard mortgage rate for all its loans.

He said the association was already considering such a proposal. Indications yesterday were the Woolwich might go it alone if agreement with other societies was not reached.

Building societies' mortgage rates vary widely depending on loan sizes—Woolwich's range from 13 per cent for less than £15,000 to 14½ per cent for more than £25,000. Mr Cumming said raising

the same amount of cash by single-rate Woolwich would currently need a standard rate of just under 13½ per cent for all loans.

The Halifax, the largest UK society, last night supported the standard rate mortgage principle but said it would need to consider detailed proposals.

The pressure for standard rate arises because of:

• Greater competition from

banks, such as National Westminster and Williams and Glyn, charging a standard 13½ per cent for all home loans, making them more attractive to larger borrowers.

• Mortgage-rate differentials which have penalised homebuyers, in the South-East and other regions, where house prices are substantially higher and there is a greater need to borrow more.

• Greater competition from

Court hears gaming licences renewal objections

BY RAY MAUGHAN

OBJECTION TO renewal of gaming licences at the Playboy Club, Park Lane, and the Clermont Club, Berkeley Square, in London's West End, was made yesterday by the Gaming Board and the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Michael Kempster, police counsel, told Canton Hall licensing magistrates court hearing the renewal application that favoured gamblers at the Play-

boy were allowed to run up and pay off debts with cheques drawn on banks where they had no accounts.

He said he had a statement from Playboy Club, owned by Chicago-based Playboy Corporation Inc., admitting occasions when certain patrons were given tokens for cheques drawn on banks where they had no account.

Sometimes, the club's admis-

sion said, tokens were given with the knowledge of members of the casino's management.

Objections to renewal centre on internal conduct of the clubs. They question their proper management in accordance with the Gaming Act, 1968, and the relationships between patrons and staff.

Opponents of renewal seek to show the club contravened

the Act by letting new members gamble within 48 hours of joining and by granting membership to porters at five London hotels for taking guests to the casino.

Patrons were let to run up heavy debts, Mr Kempster said, being let to write cheques even when their bank balances were inadequate. They were let to play even after cheques were returned.

Shell named as Dunlop tyre material partner

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

SHELL International Chemical, a Royal Dutch/Shell subsidiary, disclosed yesterday that it is the company which has developed with Dunlop a new tyre substance reducing rolling resistance without paying the penalty of less grip on wet roads.

Tyres containing the new material were shown two weeks ago by Dunlop, which is in the process of presenting them to car manufacturers for evaluation.

At the time, Dunlop said it could not name the company, because it was planned to present samples to other makers. Shell is now introducing the material in sample quantities to these other makers from a small manufacturing plant in the Netherlands where full-scale commercial production is planned for next year.

The material is Cariflex SSCP-901, a solution polymerised styrene-butadiene rubber for use in radial tyre tread compounds.

Dunlop claims that in tests with a BL Metro at the Motor Industry Research Association's test grounds, the tyres improved fuel consumption by 5.2 per cent, equivalent to a saving of 9p a gallon at current pump prices, because of their lower rolling resistance. The company estimates that 21 per cent of a car's power is used simply to overcome rolling resistance at a speed of 75 mph rising to 60 per cent in town use.

Tyres using the material are expected to be more expensive than conventional ones, but Dunlop predicts that the extra cost will be marginal once they are produced in volume. The Dunlop-Shell development is the result of 10 years' research into the inter-relationship of tyre and road surfaces. Dunlop believes that although its competitors will have access to the material, it has a healthy head-start in bringing them to production.

The compound is said to be suitable for tyres of all types, irrespective of their profiles.

UK NEWS

Spending in shops rose sharply last month

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SPENDING in the shops rose sharply in August, according to provisional government figures published yesterday, although many retailers still report that trade remains difficult.

The provisional retail sales figures from the Department of Trade show a rise in volume from the July index level of 108.7 to 111.5 in August (1976=100, seasonally adjusted). This brings the volume of trade in August back to the June level of 111.7.

However, the August figures are only provisional and the Department of Trade has this year repeatedly made substantial revisions in its provisional

estimates when fuller figures are known. In July, for example, the provisional volume of trade was given as 110.5, which was subsequently revised downwards to 108.7.

The main reason given by retailers for the apparent sales recovery in August was the sunny weather, which helped to boost sales of gardening equipment and summer fashions.

Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, director-general of the Retail Consortium, said yesterday that the August figures "were more or less what we expected."

However, he pointed out that retailers were still under heavy pressure from rising costs,

especially rates, and said that retail prices were generally rising slower than the rate of inflation.

Mr Tom McAuliffe, chairman of the Argos discount stores group, reported that his company's sales increased by about a fifth in value between July and August. He said that this was mainly due to the publication of the new Argos catalogue. But he added that this boost had done little to dispel his belief that sustained recovery would not happen for another 18 months.

Mr David Johnson, chief executive of the Rumbelows chain, said that sales of electrical goods had remained

buoyant in the past few months. Video recorders in particular have continued to sell well, even after the boost of the Royal wedding.

Mr Johnson also suggested that consumer spending in the shops until Christmas may be better than he had previously expected.

The John Lewis Partnership reports that sales in its department stores for the week ending September 5 were up by 4.9 per cent on the same week last year. Food sales rose by a similar amount.

Some support for the government sales figures has come from the latest figures for

consumer credit applications published by the United Association for the Protection of Trade, the largest credit information agency in the UK. These showed that demand for credit in August was only 2 per cent lower than in the same month last year.

Analysis of the Department of Trade's figures show that sales volume in the three months June to August were about the same as in the previous three months. However, during the first eight months of 1981 the average level of trade was about 2 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1980.

August was 'excellent' for holiday business

By James McDonald

AUGUST WAS an "excellent" month for the English tourist industry, and the levels for both domestic and overseas tourism may prove to be a record for the month, Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board, said in London yesterday.

The industry, he said, had been benefiting from "post-Royal Wedding joys." A combination of sunshine, a more competitive currency, and the very favourable world-wide impact of television coverage of the wedding had contributed towards the industry's fortunes.

"London, for example, has had many hotels full. In a good number of cases, this is continuing," he said. Much depended upon the future pricing policy of individual concerns in the industry for the maintenance of this recovery, he said. "I appeal to them to keep their prices at this now very competitive level."

Tourism and holiday-making by Britons reached a record last year in spite of inflation, growing unemployment and the economic recession, according to the British Home Tourism Survey 1980, published yesterday by the English, Scottish and Wales Tourist Boards and the British Tourist Authority.

British tourists took a record 146m trips during the year, either in Britain or abroad. They spent 720m nights away from home. This represented an 11 per cent increase over 1979 in terms of trips and a 4 per cent increase in nights away.

Nights away spent in Britain last year, at 556m, were up by 4 per cent compared with 1979, while nights abroad rose by 12 per cent.

The survey based on more than 26,000 interviews and carried out by NOP Market Research, shows that Britons are trading down in their holidays.

They spent a record £4.55bn in Britain last year, 15 per cent more per night than in 1979 (£8.30 compared with £7.20), but this increase was below the average rate of inflation over the period.

British Home Tourism Survey 1980. £2.25. British Tourist Authority, 64, St James's Street, London SW1.

Tourism fears over Scottish air routes

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN OVER the possible abandonment by British Airways of some or all of its Scottish internal routes, if they cannot be restored to profitability, has been expressed by the Scottish Tourist Board.

Mr Alan Devereux, chairman of the STB, said that the routes which could be affected were national lifelines of vital importance to the Scottish economy and tourism.

They included essential communications links between Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness and a number of important communities in the North and in the Scottish islands.

"In tourism terms, if BA applied to the Scottish services their undoubted expertise and promotional fares which successfully sell their services to overseas holiday destinations, the present situation would not have arisen," said Mr Devereux.

BA has said that if a plan to restore the internal Scottish routes to profitability cannot be

devised soon, the routes would be abandoned, as part of its economy cuts.

Mr Devereux said that it had always been his view that what was needed was "a Scottish airline with a real vested interest in Scotland and a strong commitment to Scottish trade and tourism."

"The current plans of British Airways for both international and domestic flights in Scotland do not seem to me to provide support for the view that British Airways could fulfil this role. Nor do they accord with the responsibilities of Britain's flagship airline."

British Caledonian, the independent airline, is adding Douala, in the African state of Cameroon, to its network on November 1. Flights will be once-weekly each way, using Boeing 707 jets. Single fares will be £781 first-class and £350 economy class, with a 18-25 day Excursion at £732 return.

Leisure facilities help bring investment, says Minister

BY ROBIN REEVES, WELSH CORRESPONDENT

THE PROVISION of tourist facilities and the attraction of new manufacturing investment go hand in hand, Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, stressed in Cardiff yesterday.

Tourism Society's annual conference, said that the building of leisure facilities did not just concern tourists and overseas visitors. "If you are to attract inward investment, one of the first things you need to construct is a golf course," he declared.

Noting that he had been attacked for this suggestion in the Daily Mirror recently, Mr Edwards declared: "It may be beyond the comprehension of the Daily Mirror, but not of companies thinking of setting up in Europe."

During his recent visits to the U.S. and Japan to discuss manufacturing investment, he had found that companies regarded facilities for sport and leisure entertainment as of prime

importance in their choice of location.

"In the U.S., high technology industry is moving into Colorado, away from the crowded west coast, because the area has a great concentration of leisure facilities," Mr Edwards added.

Turning to the air travel, Mr Edwards said that it was a "matter of concern and regret" to the Government that the structure of European air fares was inhibiting travel to other parts of the world.

"This is causing the British Government serious concern and we would like to make changes," he said.

Mr Edwards also stressed the importance of developing leisure centres in the older holiday resorts. Traditional holiday centres in Wales such as Llandudno and Rhyl had transformed themselves through the construction of all-weather leisure centres, with the aid of Government and EEC support.

IBM plans £20m factory expansion at Havant

BY JASON CRISP

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines UK (IBM) is to make a substantial investment at its Havant plant in Hampshire. The company is expected to spend about £20m on equipment and buildings to make substrates on which microchips are mounted.

IBM employs 2,000 at Havant. Although it expects to require 300 for the manufacture of substrates, it does not anticipate increasing its overall level of employment. The staff will come from other product lines where the continuing miniaturisation of electronics is reducing the work involved in assembling and testing computers.

Havant will eventually become the sole source of substrates for IBM in Europe. At present, they are made at

Corbeil-Essonnes, outside Paris, and at Sindelfingen in Germany. Production is expected to reach 40m substrates a year and products will be shipped to Corbeil-Essonnes where memory and logic microchips are made to be mounted on the substrates.

A number of other sites in Europe were also considered by IBM. The company, which also manufactures at Greenock in Scotland, applied yesterday to the Havant district council for planning permission to extend the site by 24,000 square feet.

Elaine Williams writes: Plessey Telecommunications is to spend £2.5m on a new engineering centre at its Edge Lane complex in Liverpool.

Power cuts caused by heated cables

By Maurice Samuelson

Last month's widespread power failure across Southern England and Wales was caused by overheated power-lines sagging on to trees, the Central Electricity Generating Board has told Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary.

This is the finding of a preliminary inquiry into the August 5 power cuts, the worst in Britain for nearly 20 years. The board is also drawing up a more detailed inquiry into the incident for its own internal use.

The preliminary report completed last week confirmed that two 400 kilovolt "super-grid" transmission lines had expanded because of the extremely hot weather

Calor Gas prices pact with dealers banned

BY OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A PRICE-FIXING agreement between Calor Gas and a number of its dealers was yesterday banned by the Office of Fair Trading.

Details of the agreement were yesterday formally placed on the register of restrictive trade practices in London. This procedure officially declares the agreement null and void, and also enables legal action for compensation to be started in the civil courts.

The agreement relates to Calor Gas, Domestic Industrial Pressings, Infradex, Super Ser, and Valor Heating. Valor has denied that it was party to the agreement.

The agreement started on January 12 this year and

operated until April 7. Under its terms, Calor Gas agreed prices at which it would sell liquefied petroleum gas burning heaters to its dealers.

In return, the manufacturers agreed not to sell heaters to Calor's dealers at prices lower than those offered by Calor. These prices were to remain in effect until last March 31.

Under the restrictive trade practices legislation, companies can lawfully operate restrictive trade agreements only if details are given to the OFT in advance to be placed on the public register. The agreement can then operate lawfully until the courts decide if it contravenes the public interest.

Lloyds chairman says devalued £ is no salvation

BY MARTIN DICKSON

THIS YEAR'S fall in the pound's value comes as welcome relief to many exporting companies. There was, however, no salvation for the British economy down this devaluation route, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said yesterday.

He was addressing an Institute of Bankers seminar in Cambridge. He said that this year the pound had lost almost half the previous four-year rise in its effective rate against all currencies and over two-thirds of its rise against the dollar alone. This fall had affected UK

companies variously. There was no denying, however, that for a great many hard-pressed UK manufacturing and exporting companies the fall had come as a welcome relief. If accompanied by a continuing moderation of wage and other costs it offered a chance to restore some of the UK's lost competitiveness.

That however was the only good thing to be said about it. The 30-year decline in sterling from the end of the Second World War had proved there was no salvation for the UK economy down the devaluation route, Sir Jeremy said. "It encouraged British in-

dustry to compete on price rather than on quality and delivery, and in the end it increased our relative propensity to inflation."

The first flows of North Sea oil in 1977 had given the UK a chance to escape from a dangerous spiral of inflation and devaluation. While Britain remained the only major economy to be self-sufficient in oil this would tend to strengthen sterling.

Sir Jeremy said the argument was still heard that lack of investment was the main barrier to economic progress in Britain and that the banks were

primarily to blame. The banks had, however, responded well to demands for investment finance.

"Corporate borrowing depends much more on the demand for finance than on the supply, since in spite of the constraints of prudential and monetary policy the banks have always given priority to their industrial customers," he said.

"It is no part of a bank's function to persuade its corporate customers to increase their capital spending over and above the level which can be expected to yield an acceptable rate of return."

The recent evidence showed that in spite of the recession industrial investment as a whole had not fallen between 1979 and 1980: service industries invested more while manufacturing industries invested less. In 1981 the total might decline but investment had always followed a cycle.

"If anything, taken over the cycle, investment in the UK has tended to rise faster than output and one should even ask whether in some sectors—particularly the nationalised industries—there has not been too much as opposed to too little investment."

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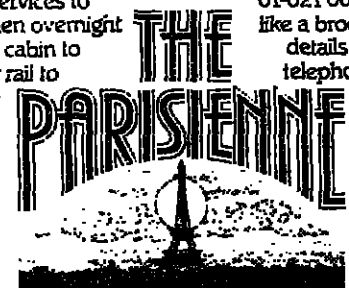
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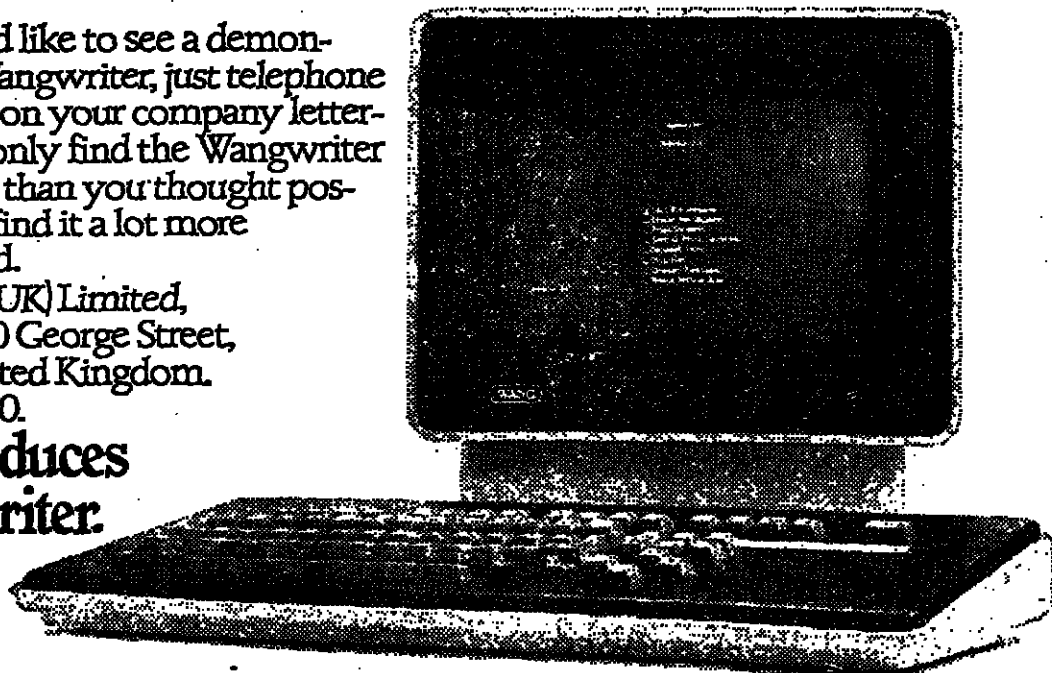
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UK NEWS

New GLC top posts are part of structural shake-up

Gareth Griffiths looks at the left-wing administration at County Hall and its future plans and prospects

READERS OF newspaper and magazine advertisements may recently have noticed a series of job advertisements for new posts with the Greater London Council, paying high salaries and dealing with such subjects as race relations, police affairs and economic development.

Ratepayers in London, faced with an average extra £1.35 a week in rates from October to fund a GLC supplementary rate and with the prospect of substantial rate increases next spring, have seized on these posts as symbolic of the new style GLC where the left-wing Labour party members are running the largest local authority in Western Europe.

The 22 new jobs in fact account for slightly less than a one in a thousand increase in total GLC staff. Half are being recruited from inside the council.

The three areas covered by the new posts are those where the new style GLC wants to take action and where its proposed approach is in sharp contrast to those of the preceding Conservative administration led by Sir Horace Cutler.

The two jobs at the police advisory committee are for a head of research and support facilities at £20,000 a year and for a research assistant at £16,485. The GLC has no policing powers, unlike any other metropolitan county, and it wants them. However, it is likely to meet with active opposition from the Home Office and the new jobs are likely to have a mainly publicity role.

An ethnic relations advisor at £22,000 per year will advise the council's new ethnic minorities committee. Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal Party leader, is among the applicants. The largest number of new

jobs will be created for the Greater London Enterprise Board, which will have an investment income of nearly £300m over the next three years. A chief executive will receive not less than £25,000 a year and up to three full time and five part time members will be appointed. Their aim is to help create conditions for the revival of the capital's manufacturing base.

Back up support for the new posts will be provided internally as the GLC has some surplus staff from the run down of its housing responsibilities and department. All the new posts are on four year contracts. The GLC says the jobs have been created where no appropriate officer structure was available.

The three new departments and committees also indicate the Labour group's intention to introduce a greater element of political accountability into the bureaucratic GLC structure.

Labour committee chairmen see their present authority in dealing with a large organisation with a staff bill of some £220m a year, as often notional. Mr Ken Livingstone, GLC leader, has attracted considerable public attention since he took over the job in May. He says this is because in the silly season of August newspapers reporters need good copy, which he provides, and that the other "bogey" or "cult" figure of the Labour left wing, Mr Tony Benn, has been in hospital.

He is happy to outline his view of the GLC's role and that of local government to the considerable number of journalists who visit him.

He believes that local government should be responsible for micro economic policy and that industry and commerce should pay the major share of rates.

Business, he argues, needs to bring people into the central

areas of London for work and transport subsidies (a major plank in the Labour London programme) should therefore be met by business taxes.

He also has a strong bias against service industries, particularly tourism, which he says creates marginal low wage employment which should not exist. Instead, he wants to see a revival of London's manufacturing base and he looks to the Greater London Enterprise Board to do it.

A major threat to his survival and that of a Labour administration at County Hall comes from divisions within the Labour party itself, with possible defectors to the Social Democrats threatening its already slim eight-seat majority.

The Party Whip system has effectively broken down. The power base among the nine committee chairmen is firmly left-wing and the party's Right is very disaffected.

Another threat comes from the Government. Mr Livingstone has already said that he will resign as leader rather than implement cuts in spending and services in a similar manner to Lothian regional council in Scotland.

But he is already recognised as a smaller increase in the GLC rate precept than he originally hoped for. Instead of raising it to 54p in the pound from the existing 24.7p, the latest upper estimates are about 48p.

Mr Livingstone, like 10 of his colleagues, works full time as a GLC councillor, and the six months since Labour took over have seen some important structural changes in the way the authority works.

Complicated with the strong departmentalism in the GLC this has provided a strong barrier to organisational change in the past. Mr Livingstone wants to change this and bring more



MR. KEN LIVINGSTONE, the controversial leader of the Greater London Council, attributes his recent bout of press publicity to the needs of the newspaper "silly season."

responsibility to a backbench member of the council who is not a committee officer and to whom officials in that area are responsible.

At the same time there has been a greater emphasis on Labour group decisions. Three young people, Veronica Crichton, Bill Bush and Steve Bullock, act as political officers for the Labour group, monitoring GLC policy and ensuring liaison between the full time bureaucracy and the politicians.

Changes in the way the GLC is run are planned for next year, although there is scepticism about whether they will take place. A plan for organisational change by the previous Conservative administration failed.

Mr Livingstone says that senior staff at County Hall are

overpaid and receive 30 to 40 per cent more than they would outside. Top salaries are around £30,000 per year.

County Hall is similar to Whitehall in offering a wide range of jobs and career opportunities, and because of its size it attracts some very able people.

Officials such as Mr Peter Newsam, the Inner London Education Authority education officer, Miss Audrey Lees, the GLC planning officer, or Mr Maurice Stonestreet, the controller of Financial Services, are regarded as the best of their type in the country.

Complicated with the strong departmentalism in the GLC this has provided a strong barrier to organisational change in the past. Mr Livingstone wants to change this and bring more

direct political pressure to bear on decision making.

Another deterrent to large scale change is the fear by Labour GLC leaders of what they call the Lambeth model. This is a reference to the changes instituted by a similar left wing Labour group when it took over running the London borough of Lambeth in 1973. The result has been a period of administrative chaos.

Finally, the impetus for structural change depends on political will. The GLC will be one of the leading authorities in the fight against the Government's legislation in the autumn to tighten controls over local government spending, and there are also likely to be a series of exhausting battles over next year's budget.

Genetic engineering 'a potent force'

BY DAVID FISLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

GENETIC engineering would produce far-reaching changes in every aspect of human life within the next two decades, the Pharmaceutical Society was told at its annual conference at Brighton yesterday.

Professor Arnold Beckett, in his presidential address to the society, said it was for the public to decide whether the changes would be for the better.

Genetic engineering would be used to develop pesticides and herbicides highly specific in their action. It would be used to clean up pollution, such as crude oil spilled on water. "The capacity of

micro-organisms to metabolise crude petroleum can be developed with startling benefit to petroleum technology," he said.

Other organisms could be given an appetite for metals and thus used to enrich ores too lean to be of commercial interest today.

In medicine, developments would lie "in the understanding and discovery of pharmaceuticals for the control of virus diseases, cancers, and autoimmune diseases, probably including diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis." Professor Beckett told an

audience, which included Dr Gerald Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, that the pharmaceutical profession did not fear the inquiry into pharmacy which it was being asked to undergo.

It is only concern would be that, "as in the past, the necessary government support might not be forthcoming."

But he urged the minister to take a broader view of primary health care, and to inquire into the future contribution of all the health professions. "If we do not have an integrated approach, we will surely fail in our duty to the patients we serve," he said.

Dr Vaughan, addressing the meeting, said that the number of chemists' shops was likely to increase this year, for the first time for a decade. "That is very good news indeed," he added.

But Dr Vaughan believed that drugs were often a waste of a cost to the health service he estimated at £100m a year.

Microcomputers to be school essay prizes

By Elaine Williams

THE DEPARTMENT OF Industry is to give 100 microcomputers as prizes for the best suggested use of computers in schools. Mr Kenneth Baker, Information Technology Minister, said yesterday.

This is the second year that the department has run the "Micros in Schools" competition to increase awareness of advanced technology among schoolchildren.

This year the competition will be run by the British Computer Society on behalf of the Department and will be open to all secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

Entrants will be asked to submit an essay of 3,000-4,000 words, with appropriate diagrams, describing the use of a computer by schools for a specific project.

Last year the competition had more than 4,000 entrants from more than 8,000 secondary schools in the UK. Already about 50 per cent of secondary schools have some sort of computer facility.

In April the Prime Minister announced a £4m programme to install a microcomputer in every secondary school by 1983. The Industry Department matches pound for pound expenditure by local education authorities on computers.

Since the campaign started, the department has received more than 1,200 applications from schools. Two UK companies, Research Machines and Acorn Computers, have been nominated as official suppliers.

Directors appointed to RIT

By Tim Dickson

THREE DIRECTORS have been appointed to the board of RIT, the investment trust headed by Mr Jacob Rothschild.

The best known of the three is Mr David Montagu, formerly chairman of Samuel Montagu and Company and Orion Bank. He is expected to become executive chairman of Ailsa Investment Trust this week. Shareholders yesterday approved reconstruction proposals initiated by RIT.

Mr Montagu is to devote most of his time to running the reorganised company but the RIT Investment Management (Ailsa's new management company, of which he will be chairman), other portfolio management ventures are expected to develop.

Mr Montagu, who left Merrill Lynch International last December, is also chairman of United British Securities Trust and Derby Trust.

The other two new directors at RIT are Mr Ailard Jiskoot and Mr Charles Wilson. Mr Jiskoot was managing partner of Pierson, Heidring and Pierson in Amsterdam and is still a director of the company. He is also a director of Phillips, Canadian Pacific, Heineken and Elsevier.

Mr Wilson is an executive director and former managing director of Dawney Day Holdings, which RIT took over at the beginning of last year.

Homes inquiry near ICI plant

A PUBLIC inquiry will open today into a plan to build 540 homes near a chemical plant which has been declared a major hazard.

The Government's health and safety executive has said there should be no building within one mile of the ICI works at Thornton near Fleetwood, Lancs. But the local council has given its approval to the housing estate because it considers the risk negligible.

Manchester enterprise zone opens with warning

BY RHYTH DAVID, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

THE GREATER Manchester Enterprise Zone—800 acres in the boroughs of Salford and Trafford—was officially opened yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary for the Environment.

He later launched The New Life, a £16,000, 25-foot motor sailer built by one of the first companies to move into the zone, International Marine.

The zone covers part of the Trafford Park industrial estate and a large tract of under-used land owned by the Manchester Ship Canal. Companies operating in the designated area will enjoy exemption from rates and development land tax, 100 per cent capital allowances for commercial and industrial buildings, and simpler planning procedures.

Mr Heseltine warned that the zone could not hope to solve all the problems of Greater Manchester, where unemployment exceeds 13 per cent. But the activity generated in the zone could have a spin-off effect, he claimed, to benefit the whole of the Trafford Park estate and inner parts of Salford.

The zone itself has attracted controversy in Manchester because of the likely effect on parts of the Trafford Park estate which fall outside its scope.

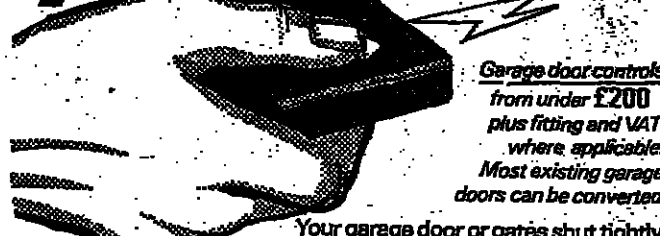
According to some estimates, the zone is big enough to satisfy development needs in the vicinity for 10 years and could almost halt the creation of new space nearby.

Supporters of the scheme argue, however, that the zone will help to bring back into use large tracts of vacant land.

Thus the Manchester Ship Canal—which has roughly 200 acres in the zone—is making available a number of sites of up to 20 acres, and Dunlop Heywood, the agent appointed by the canal company to market the land, reports a brisk level of inquiries.

One of the sites in the zone, previously occupied by Manchester Dry Docks has been renamed Trafford Wharf Estates and has already attracted a number of new businesses, Dunlop Heywood claims.

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UK NEWS - LABOUR

Support for Healey in TGWU poll

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

OVERWHELMING support for Mr Denis Healey to continue as deputy leader of the Labour Party has been recorded in one of the regions of the Left-led Transport and General Workers' Union.

TGWU branches in the traditionally conservative north of England have voted by about five-to-one for the status quo.

Converted into membership, the vote shows about 40,000 for Mr Healey, 7,000

for Mr John Silkin, the union's sponsored MP, and fewer than 5,000 for Mr Tony Benn. Branches covering some 50,000 of the region's 84,000 members sent in returns.

Other TGWU regions said to be swinging behind Mr Healey include southern, south-western and Yorkshire, while Wales is reportedly split between Mr Healey and Mr Silkin. Scotland and the big London region are likely

to back Mr Benn.

The results of the polling, still continuing in some regions, will be considered by the TGWU general executive next week. The executive will then make a recommendation to the union's delegation to the party conference on Sunday week, only hours before the election is held.

The result of the Northern region vote is said to be a reflection of the view of Mr Alex Kilson, TGWU acting

general secretary and chairman of the Labour Party, who has consistently argued that there should be no contest for the deputy leadership this year.

TGWU leaders are inclined to support Mr John Silkin on the first ballot. The way the votes appear to be going among the membership could make it difficult for the union's delegation to support Mr Benn at any stage in the election.

BA rescue plan for discussion

By Our Labour Staff

BRITISH AIRWAYS unions and management are to meet on Thursday within the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport, to discuss the corporation's plan for the loss of 9,000 jobs, a pay freeze and drastic cuts in routes and stations.

National union officials and shop stewards met yesterday on the British Airways Trades Union Council to discuss the rescue package.

This meeting effectively deferred any statement from the union side until after Thursday's joint council.

Union representatives at yesterday's meeting are understood to have reaffirmed their opposition to compulsory redundancies but did not take their response much beyond this.

The corporation intends to make redundancies voluntary as far as possible.

Staff were yesterday told details of the severance scheme, which was said to be of limited duration and liable to be withdrawn at any time.

The scheme involves payment of a half year's pensionable pay—basic pay plus London weighting—for less than three years' service, one year's pay for three to 10 years, and an extra 10 per cent of pay for every year of service to a maximum of a year and a half's pay for 15 years' service and over.

Shop stewards representing engineering maintenance workers have already met to discuss their response and have decided to provide as much co-operation as possible with management.

They oppose to compulsory redundancies and have not yet discussed the demand for a pay freeze.

The manual unions were to submit a claim in the next few months. Some shop stewards have suggested they might seek a shorter working week rather than higher basic pay.

Mark Meredith on problems in the white goods sector

Hoover faces hard times

THE PROSPECTS for the white goods industry in Britain are looking decidedly grey. Hoover in particular faces difficult times for jobs and investment.

Competition is fierce and too many other companies in Europe are making Hoover's main products—washing machines and vacuum cleaners. Cheaper imports are hurting, fewer people in Britain are buying because of harder times and Hoover is losing money—about \$5m in the first half of the year.

To improve sales, Hoover has just launched a "try-anything trade-in" with saturation advertising tempting buyers with price reductions.

Hoover says it has about 35 per cent of the washing machine market, about the same as its rival Hotpoint. The vacuum cleaner market is another story. Hoover claims about 40 per cent and a loss of about 5 per cent over the year.

Mr Peter Goode, who took over as managing director of Hoover last month, has taken a no-nonsense approach to improvements and ordered a fast return to profitability.

Some painful options suggested by management consultants A. T. Kearney have now been set before the company's 9,000 staff. Hoover insists the report is a discussion document but by the end of the year management may have to close a factory.

At Cambuslang, near Glasgow, 2,000 staff produce big upright vacuum cleaners, electric motors for washing machines, kettles and irons. At Perth, West London, 1,500 staff produce upright vacuum cleaners, including the popular Hoover Junior.

A third plant, at Merthyr Tydfil in Wales, houses the company's laundry production, turning out washin machines and tumble dryers. It has a staff of 3,500.

The Wales factory has already

shed 300 jobs and is looking for 200 more.

Hoover's options include shutting Cambuslang and shifting work to Perth, or shutting both factories to open a custom-built plant elsewhere. Merthyr Tydfil is not included in these options for closure.

What is worrying the unions at the moment is a severe set of proposals from management to all staff as part of the package to restore profitability. These include:

- a 10 per cent wage cut from January for all staff including management;
- a reduction in manning levels;
- no wage increases until the company returns to profitability;
- longer wage agreements running for 30 months instead of the present 12;
- reducing the number of shop stewards conducting pay talks.

For staff who have been working on short time for a year, these demands are hard to take. "We're a sun to our heads," said Mr Eddie McAvoy, the works convenor at Cambuslang.

The threat to close Cambuslang has already become a political issue in Scotland. It could mean the biggest blow to unemployment in the Glasgow area since Talbot shut down its Linwood works with the loss of 4,000 jobs.

There have been calls for the Scottish Office to help find ways of easing the company's financial burdens in Scotland. Cambuslang makes one of the products hit hard by imports: small cylinder vacuum cleaners. Imports from East Germany and Czechoslovakia are selling for about half as much in the shops, which has hurt Hoover's sales.

Imports of vacuum cleaners generally have shot up from 285,000 in 1977 to 780,000 last year. For British producers, this is an uncomfortable amount in a market which for the past few years has remained

fairly constant, with about 2m cleaners sold annually.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electric Appliances has compiled figures for a potential anti-dumping suit against the eastern Europeans through the EEC. But little can be done to stem the import of washing machines from Italy.

Mr Richard Ford, marketing director of Curry's and one of the big multiples selling Hoover products, said: "I don't buy the dumping line. I think Zanussi just analysed the market better."

Other retailers criticise Hoover for not producing a greater range of washing machines to suit different family budgets.

One of the problems British producers face is the highly developed distribution system inside the UK, unparalleled anywhere else in Europe. This means a producer of washing machines or vacuum cleaners can market his goods throughout the country by contacting one of two of the big retailing outlets.

These retailers report that they are not counting on white goods to make profits this year. Electrical appliance shops today count more on video sales or television rentals to improve their figures.

Hoover has also come under fire from department stores for not leaving sufficient margins for retailers to make profits. The latest sales drive by Hoover will not help ease this criticism.

Robin Reeves writes: Hoover's proposal for a 10 per cent wage reduction, as part of a radical "survival plan," was rejected by a shop stewards' meeting at the Merthyr Tydfil plant yesterday.

Pay levels there are reported to be running at 20 per cent below normal already, as a result of months of short-time working. The new retrenchment package was presented to union leaders last week.

Mersey dock mass meeting called

Financial Times Reporter

A MASS meeting of the 3,500 dockers on the Mersey has been called by the port shop stewards in the Liverpool Docks Stadium tomorrow morning, to discuss the deadlocked negotiations on their annual pay claim, now five months behind schedule.

The decision was taken at a four-and-a-half-hour meeting of the 100 stewards in Liverpool yesterday which adjourned without deciding on any recommendation to put to the men.

A fortnight ago the stewards recommended rejection of the port employers' "final" pay and productivity deal and this was carried by a 2-1 majority.

Since then the employers have closed the door on any further negotiations. The stewards will reconvene in Transport House tomorrow morning before the mass meeting, to try to decide on a recommendation.

Yesterday's meeting was at times heated, with the stewards almost equally divided, and some left the hall obviously still angry at the stringent changes in working practices on which the employers are insisting.

There is little argument about the pay award based on an 11 per cent increase on the basic, proportionate rises on the twilight and night shifts, improved bonus and piece-work rates and a £200 lump sum backdated to the beginning of May.

The meetings tomorrow will coincide with the release of the half-yearly figures of the main employer, Mersey Docks and Harbour, which are expected to show another substantial loss.

Seamen to present claim today

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS of 26,000 merchant seamen will this afternoon present their annual claim on pay and conditions against the background of what British shipping companies say is a continued deterioration in their financial position.

The claim will be fixed at a meeting of the executive of the National Union of Seamen this morning. The practice in recent years has been to put forward a substantial but unquantified claim for an increase in pay along with specific extra elements.

Last year a dispute on overtime rates resulted in the most

damaging period of industrial action since the 1956 seamen's strike. It ended with an arbitration award which increased the rates from time-and-a-quarter on all overtime to time-and-a-half, except for the first two hours of each weekday.

When the last stage of the award is implemented on January 1, seamen's earnings will have increased over the year by about 16 per cent, calculated on existing work patterns. The union side will say, however, that a fall in the amount of overtime reduces that figure.

After last year's dispute, some shipping companies would like

to negotiate their own pay deals and avoid the talks in the National Maritime Board where they are represented by the General Council of British Shipping.

There is a possibility of individual deals being struck, but time is running short and it is believed that most companies will remain with the main negotiations.

Employers will emphasise the fact that the General Council of British Shipping's index of tramp trip freight rates has fallen to 172 in August from 234 at the beginning of the year (1976=100). This is the lowest level since May 1978.

Vauxhall workers reject 4% pay offer

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

TRANSPORT and General Workers Union members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside voted at a mass meeting yesterday to reject the company's pay offer, worth about 4 per cent.

Shop stewards from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers have recommended that the offer should not be accepted and say consultations with their members at Elles-

mere Port are resulting in a rejection.

The decision of the 3,000 TGWU members, half the Ellesmere Port workforce, was relayed to management.

A national joint negotiating committee meeting for the whole of Vauxhall's manual labour force has been fixed for September 25.

The company has told the unions that it will enter

negotiations to improve the offer if higher earnings are paid for entirely by higher productivity.

The company has already warned union negotiators for the 16,000 manual workers that funds for increases this year are limited. Vauxhall made a half-year loss of almost £60m.

The offer also involves a one-hour reduction in the working week to 39 hours.

TUC award-winner in sit-in

THE WINNER of this year's TUC award for youth was yesterday involved in a works sit-in.

Ms Carmen Wootton, 23, from Anstey, near Leicester, returned with her award from the TUC Blackpool conference last week

to find she was one of 75 people sacked by Evan Lifts, of Leicester.

The 75, all members of TASS, were deemed by the company to have dismissed themselves for refusing to halt disruptive action over a two-week-old pay and conditions row.

Shortages of meat 'in a week'

BY BRIAN GROOM

SHORTAGES of fresh meat will be seen in the shops within a week, according to leaders of 600 meat inspectors in England and Wales who yesterday began to rule.

Their union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), claimed yesterday that slaughterhouse throughput in some areas had been reduced by up to 80 per cent. The weekly national red meat throughput of 22,000 tonnes of veal, lamb, mutton and beef could be down to 3,000 tonnes by the end of the week, it said.

The Nalgo members, who make up virtually all the country's meat inspectors, are

"rigidly" implementing the 1983 meat inspection regulations, the union said.

The inspectors want an improvement in pay grading to compensate for additional duties and for a deterioration in working conditions which they claim has resulted from increased mechanisation in slaughterhouses.

Mr Alan Dunn, deputy general manager of the Dewhurst chain of butchers' shops, said he believed some abattoirs were working "fairly normally" but others were harder hit.

He expected the work-to-rule to gain strength today and by the weekend there may be a shortfall in shop supplies of

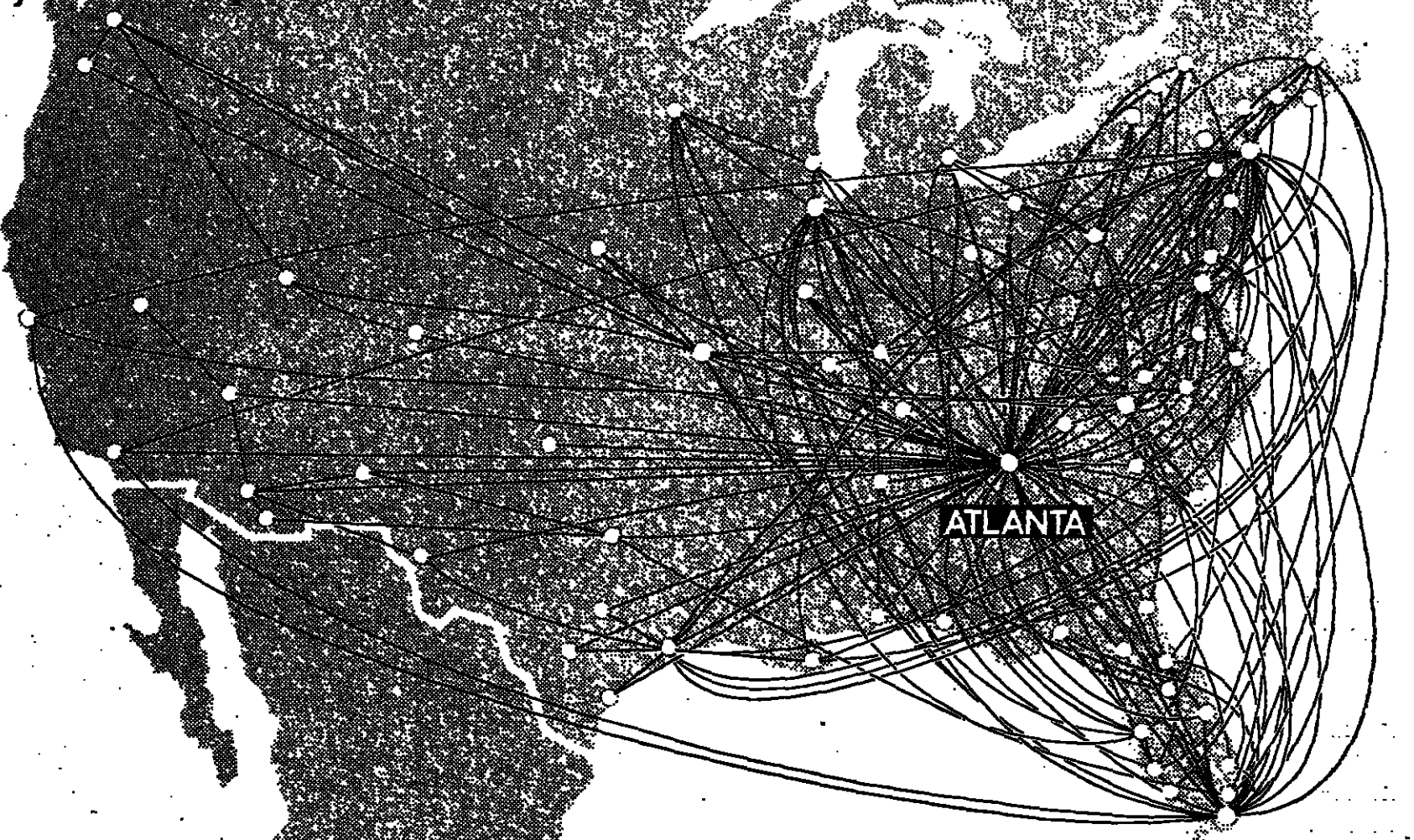
about 20 per cent. This could grow next week and would force prices up.

The employers' side of the national joint council for local authority white-collar staff and it was too early to assess the impact of the work-to-rule properly. It had seen no evidence to support the union's claim of a 60 per cent drop in throughput.

No further negotiations have been arranged, but the employers feel that procedures are not yet exhausted. They have offered a maximum of £7,137 a year, compared with the £5,652-£6,533 which the inspectors now earn. The union is seeking a range of £7,371-£7,876.

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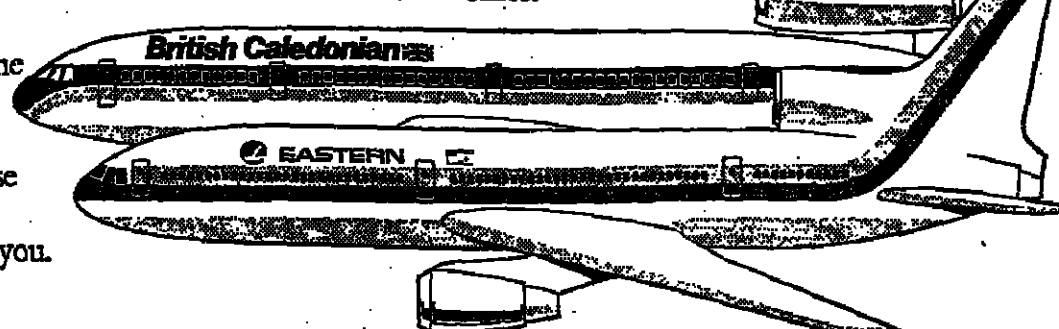
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A FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

NORTHERN IRELAND

NOVEMBER 9 1981

The Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on Northern Ireland in its issue of November 9 1981. The provisional editorial synopsis is set out below.

INTRODUCTION Northern Ireland has struggled for years to improve its economic position. Although it has had to contend with the rundown of traditional industries such as shipbuilding and textiles it has managed to attract a large amount of new industries, particularly in the vehicle field, and these have helped to bolster the economy. But the search for a political solution continues to be dogged by setbacks and is proving to be difficult to bring about.

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Ch. Andrews

TECHNOLOGY

EDITED BY ALAN CANE

Intel takes a 10% change of direction to silicon services

LOUISE KEHOE describes the reasons for Intel's decision to turn as much as 10 per cent of its production capacity over to a new venture into silicon foundry services.

INTEL, the fourth biggest U.S. manufacturer of integrated circuits, with annual sales approaching \$800m is to turn as much as 10 per cent of its production capacity over to a new venture into "silicon foundry" services. The silicon foundry will provide manufacturing services to customers who design their own integrated circuits.

Intel expects the new operation to have sales of \$100m a year within a couple of years. The company believes that the U.S. market for silicon foundry services is already worth \$135m and will grow to \$680m by 1985. The rapid expansion of the silicon foundry market reflects the growing needs of large computer and telecommunications equipment manufacturers who want to build systems that offer exclusive features.

To do this they need non-standard electronic devices—ones that cannot be purchased or copied by their competitors. Some of the largest systems manufacturers have acquired their own chip manufacturing

facilities to make these parts, but with the cost of setting up a semi-conductor manufacturing plant approaching \$100m, silicon foundries offer an attractive alternative.

Intel's move into the silicon foundry business to make "custom" chips marks a dramatic departure from the company's previous policy of sticking almost exclusively to high profit, innovative device products. With that business now under increasing threat from Japanese competitors, Intel is switching towards a market in which close customer supplier relationships are crucial, one which is largely immune to foreign competition.

Many of Intel's U.S. competitors including Motorola and National Semiconductor have already opened their doors to silicon foundry business, although less publicly. Intel's announcement of its new operation will however serve to endorse the new business, and could even expand the market, industry experts say.

Some observers suggest that

the downturn in the U.S. economy, which has its effect upon the semi-conductor market, has prompted semi-conductor makers to accept foundry business as a means of keeping production lines busy. Many of the companies that are presently "filling in" with foundry business will turn it away when the economy turns up, analysts predict.

Intel, however, claims that this is not their strategy. "We have wanted to do this for a long time," said Robert Noyce, company vice-chairman. "But the industry was in a capacity situation that made it impossible to withdraw capacity."

In the past two years, Intel has tripled its production

capability by building new plants and increasing the yield of good chips made out of each silicon wafer. "Now we are ahead of the power curve on capacity," said Noyce. "We are now reserving capacity for silicon foundry, and we will continue to do so."

One advantage for the semi-conductor manufacturer that shifts design and development costs and risks to the customer. For today's highly complex chips this is a very significant investment. Another factor that has been instrumental in changing the attitude towards who designs the circuits is a new "design methodology" for very large-scale integrated circuits

which have evolved in the U.S. This approach allows systems designers to draw up integrated circuit layouts without having too much concern for the details of the circuits.

Much of the detail of VLSI design is handled by computer aided design tools. As part of its silicon foundry service, Intel will allow customers access to the in-house developed computer programmes that its own designers use to build new chips, microprocessors and memories.

Intel is able to offer customers some of the most advanced semi-conductor processes available today, and in multiple locations so that the customer is always assured of supply.



DR. ROBERT NOYCE, Intel Vice-Chairman: We are now reserving capacity for silicon foundry and will continue to do so.

Mitsubishi temperature technique

A TECHNIQUE for the measurement of temperature in the proximity of high electric power fields (which may affect the accuracy of electrically-based measurements) has been developed by Mitsubishi Corporation using fibre optics and temperature sensitive semiconductor.

One of the sensors developed makes use of a gallium arsenide

window only 150 microns thick sandwiched between the two ends of an input and an output optical fibre.

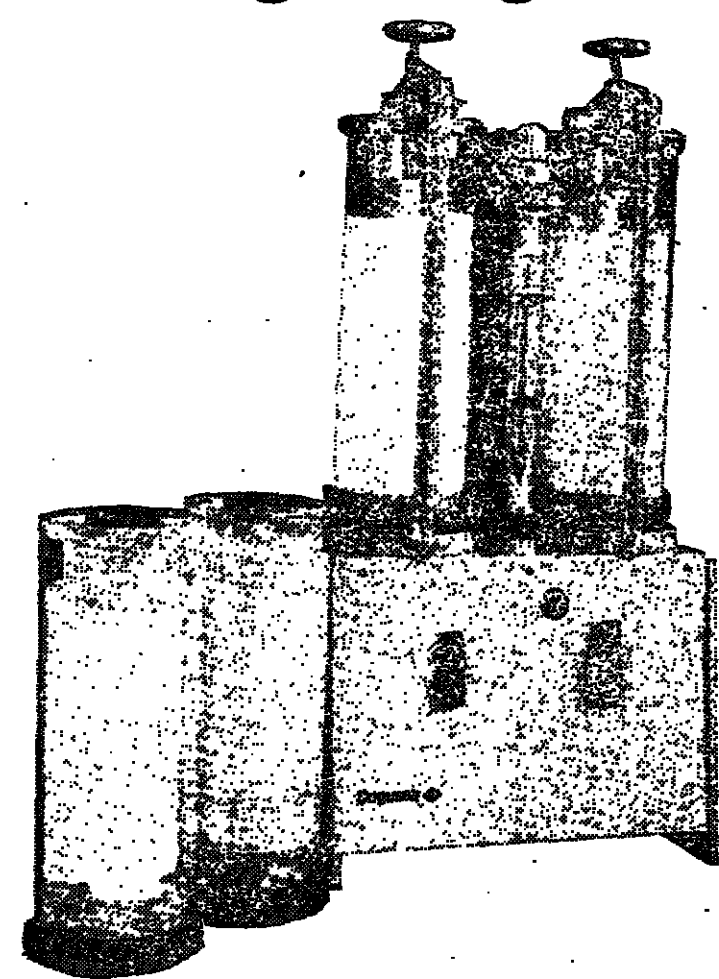
The input fibre is connected to a dual wavelength source where one of the wavelengths is such that it passes through the window without attenuation. The other generated wavelength however, is attenuated by the semiconductor according to

the temperature. This is because the absorption band, almost coincident with the second wavelength, shifts with temperature, changing the amount of light allowed through.

More from Don Iguchi or Yoshio Nakamura at the project co-ordination department, Mitsubishi Corporation, 6-3 Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

POINTERS

Exchanger for gold recovery



DEGUSSA of Frankfurt has introduced this two column metal apparatus, designated "Metallosorb Kombi" to help small and medium-sized precious metal electroplating shops to recover gold and palladium by the use of exchanger resins directly from the rinsing water. Degussa says that if the resins in the two columns are replaced by plate, multiple tube or activated charcoal filters it is also possible to carry out filtering with the unit. Degussa is Postfach 26 44, D 6000 Frankfurt 1. Tel. (06 11 218 28 60) or telex: 41 222-0 d g d.

Norway's latest

ONE of three new Norwegian coastguard vessels was at home on the Thames last week. The Nordkapp was in London for the fitting of its Westland Sea Lynx helicopter, but the skipper and 50 crew took the opportunity to pipe aboard contractors, Press and the Royal Navy to look at Norway's latest bit of technology.

This good looking ship with a displacement of 3,200 tons, a patrol speed of 15 knots and a cruising range of 7,500 miles carries one 57 mm Bofors gun, 20 mm anti-aircraft guns and a

rack for six depth charges. Norway's Navy Material Command says that despite the armament it is not a warship, but could be used as such in the event of an emergency.

Basically, it has been designed to cover an area of about a million square kilometres from the North Sea to the Barents Sea to enforce Norwegian authority on fishery and environmental protection and rescue services. Details about the builders and suppliers are available from the Export Council of Norway, 20, Pall Mall, London, 01-339 6261.

Improved reception

WHEN RADIO London on VHF moves from Wrotham, Kent, to Crystal Palace in London the new aerial installation will improve reception of the signals in cars.

The problem has been that the electromagnetic polarisation of the transmissions was chosen to be horizontal some years ago, before it became customary to include VHF bands on car radios. Thus, all VHF aerials on rooftops have their elements lying in the horizontal plane.

Unfortunately, most car aerials are vertical in order to obtain the height for adequate signal pick up, thus placing them at right angles to the polarisation and defeating the object. Curved aerials are something of a compromise.

In the aerial to be supplied to the BBC by CSA (C and S Antennas) of Rochester, skeleton slot radiators will be used over a reflecting screen of horizontal and vertical bars and the slots will be inclined so as to provide both vertical and horizontal polarisation elements in the transmission.

Twin seal hydroplug

CHALWYN Equipment of Poole, Dorset (0202 741200) says that its newly developed twin seal hydroplug should interest companies involved in the maintenance of pipework in chemical and petroleum refinery installations.

The company claims that with the incorporation of two seals the unit, used for hydrostatic testing of welds after replace-

ment of a weld neck flange has an advantage in that only a short length of pipework, adjacent to the weld, is subjected to the test pressure (max 690 bar). More from Chalwyn 0202 741200.

STL flat display unit

A FLAT display unit only 36 mm square and a few millimetres thick having 1,600 picture elements has been developed by Standard Telecommunications Laboratories (STL) of Harlow, the UK Research centre of IIT.

The company believes that the device will, when developed to the production stage, find application in many kinds of portable equipment and in aircraft/vehicle instrumentation systems.

Very little power is required to energise the unit, which is capable of displaying, for example, a full Prestel page together with diagrams and graphics.

Work is already under way on a higher-definition version with 57,600 pixels and a dimension of 69 mm.

The display technology used is dye phase-change liquid crystal and built as a back-plane to the display areas is a single wafer silicon integrated circuit in which all the addressing is carried out. Driving and decoding circuitry is also incorporated in the wafer.

STL claims: "It opens the way to complex miniature displays with contrast and legibility approaching that of print on paper."

Sensor light switch to save energy

A SENSOR controlled light switch which can hear if a room is occupied and see if the daylight has dropped below a certain level, switching the room lighting on and off as necessary, has been introduced by Allen-Martin Electronics of Wolverhampton (0902 58942). Cheshire County Council, first users of the device, has recorded a 15 per cent energy saving.

When daylight levels are low only sound in the room will trigger the switch, via a microphone that discriminates against spurious external noises. If no sounds are heard during a set period (which is adjustable), the lights go off. If daylight is adequate (the sensor level is adjustable) then the audio switch is inhibited and the lights cannot come on. Overriding manual control is

provided. Known as the ALSI, the unit directly replaces and is easily installed as a conventional wall switch, fitting a standard dual-switch. Up to 2 kW of fluorescent lighting can be switched. It is intended for institutional, rather than domestic, use, when reasonable sound levels could be expected in most rooms.



Kalle facsimile digital machine

ALTHOUGH THE latest high speed "Group 3" digital facsimile machine from Kalle Infotec will retail for £8,750—perhaps twice as much as the slower Group 2 machines—the company claims that the difference will be paid for by reduced line charges, even if only half a dozen A4 documents a day are sent to Europe, let alone the U.S.

The company points out that telephone line charges are tending upwards while micro-processor-based hardware is getting cheaper, making deployment of the faster, more expensive machines an increasingly viable proposition.

Kalle Infotec, part of the Hoechst chemicals giant, is already in a good market position in the UK with 1,250 earlier machines installed. It markets systems made by Ricoh in Japan; these are also sold by Rapicom in the U.S. and to date 25,000 digital units have been placed worldwide.

The importance of the latest model, the 5003, is that it transmits to the recently laid down CCITT Group 3 standards for facsimile, now mandatory.

Upgrade

Applications are most likely to arise in international companies with significant traffic to Europe, Africa, the U.S. and similarly remote places particularly where document graphics content prevents the use of telex or other character methods. Working at 4,800 bytes/sec over a standard phone line, Group 3 digital machines will typically transmit an A4 page in one minute or less.

So far, the facsimile market has been somewhat slow to get off the ground in the UK in comparison with the U.S. and Japan. However, the recent setting of standards means that increasingly, a machine in company A will be able to transmit to a machine in company B—which is not often the case at present.

Those who already possess a Kalle Infotec model 6000 will be able to upgrade their machines to Group 3 CCITT working with the purchase and retrofit of a £2,400 package.

GEORGE CHARLISH

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In fact, you'll find Super Club offers you just about everything you'd expect from first class on other airlines—at a price that's far less than you'd expect.

THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Britain: the new U.S. tax haven

BY CARLA RAPOPORT

AN AMERICAN love affair with Britain is about to start all over again, no thanks this time to the Royal Family, the Rolling Stones or the strengthening dollar. Instead it is due to President Reagan's recently approved tax code which dispenses with the punishing tax system now in effect in America and a few rules which will establish Britain as a tax haven for American expatriates.

Under the new system, Americans working abroad will be able to exclude \$5,000 of their income next year from U.S. taxes and by 1986, the figure will reach \$20,000. This means that more than 90 per cent of Americans living abroad will pay no taxes on their income next year and will only be liable to the tax man in their host country.

Compared with its European neighbours, Britain is a terrific host. According to UK tax law, foreigners working for foreign-based companies need only pay tax on 50 per cent of their income.

This tax holiday hasn't meant much to Americans for the past five years, starting in 1976, American expatriates were required to pay the full U.S. tax burden, although various complex deductions were allowed, although credits for foreign tax paid, however, Americans paid just as much tax, and often more, than they would have paid back home. Companies usually provided tax equalisation plans, but this meant the employer was stuck paying the taxes paid for each employee.

As of the new year, there will clearly be no better place than the U.K. for Americans to set up, says Saul Epstein, who is in charge of U.S. tax in the U.K. at Arthur Young McClelland Moore, the large firm of accountants. So far, though, few have taken advantage of the new provisions. American expatriates in the U.S. The tax changes are a result

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*Based on top U.S. tax rate of 50 per cent.

of ardent lobbying by American companies with interests abroad. These groups claimed the tough tax laws discouraged the transfer of Americans abroad and thus hurt America's export potential. They also complained that the punishing tax liability made U.S. bids for contracts uncompetitive, especially in the Middle East.

The new laws will save American companies millions of dollars. A Touche Ross executive in New York estimated that the practice of "grossing up" (paying various allowances for an employee and the income tax burden) could mean spending up to \$250,000 to maintain a \$60,000-a-year employee overseas.

According to Chase Econometrics, the economic forecasting subsidiary of Chase Manhattan Bank, the number of highly-skilled expatriate Americans in professions like con-

struction, architecture and design had declined by 50 per cent since 1978. Overall, the General Accounting Office in Washington reckoned that the American workforce abroad had shrunk by 21 per cent by 1981, compared with 1978.

While the new laws should propel more Americans overseas, the U.S. Treasury estimates that its potential loss in revenue will be \$300m next year and \$700m by 1986 when the allowable excluded income will reach \$95,000.

As the U.S. abandons its role as an overseas tax collector, UK accountants are now expecting a renewed interest in UK tax avoidance by American expatriates. "The energy expended on paying the least amount of tax to Washington will now be applied to keeping the UK tax bill low," explained one UK accountant.

A fairly common avoidance method before U.S. taxes went up in 1976 was the split contract. Under this system, American companies dish out contracts, which stated that part of the employee's time be spent in other countries, thus freeing him from UK taxes during those periods. In some cases, the off-shore income was paid into a separate account for the employee.

"There's nothing magical or naughty about it," says Maurice Thompson, a partner in the UK of accountants Touche Ross. Split contracts will be one way to reduce UK tax liability for Americans, he says.

While it is possible that the Inland Revenue may try to tighten up the tax laws for expatriates, at the moment "there is no way we can oppose a form of contract between employees and employers," according to a Revenue official.

The UK tax holiday, only last for nine years, however. After that, expatriates are liable for the full brunt of the UK tax laws. But nine years is surely long enough for any romance to flourish.

The improved circumstances of one lucky man

PAUL LUBENS works for the R office of American Wholes Limited and earns \$100,000. This year, the Government will allow him a housing deduction of \$7,000 and package of other deductions, including school fees for his two children, which will total \$15,000. His U.S. taxable income is therefore \$78,000. His UK tax bill, based on his \$78,000, is about \$12,000 (if, remember, of that paid by his British colleague who is next to him and earns the same money. Lubens is

also eligible for UK tax relief on a mortgage if he decides to buy a house). The UK tax is credited towards his U.S. tax bill. Lubens pays an accountant anywhere between \$500 and \$1,000 to figure out how much he owes Washington and file his American tax forms. The accountant informs him that he still owes \$11,398, for a total tax bill of \$23,398.

Next year, Lubens will still be earning \$100,000 but he has spurned a better offer from his UK-based competitor and here's why. His new

housing allowance is now \$12,941. He gets no deductions, but \$75,000 of his income is now excluded from tax. The amount remaining, \$24,959, will be taxed in the lowest tax bracket, as will any investment income that might arise in future years.

For 1982, Lubens's total U.S. tax bill is \$1,022. Assuming UK taxes don't go up, his UK tax bill will again be about \$12,000 for a total tax bill of \$13,022 or a saving of about \$10,000.

Mr and Mrs Lubens are now shopping for a new car.

What a frustrated banker did with an offer he couldn't refuse

A millionaire gave Andrew Deacon a fortune to become an industrialist. Arnold Kransdorff reports



Profile

WHEN, at the age of 18, Andrew Deacon joined Price Waterhouse's Birmingham office as an articled clerk, he never dreamt that one day he would be offered £780,000 to start his own business.

He had always wanted to be his own boss but, in common with many other ambitious youngsters with limited resources, he could not see how he was going to break out of the employee mould.

The only thing he could do, he reasoned, was to get as much experience as possible and leave the rest to fate. Today, 15 years later, he heads a large group making machinery for the plastics industry.

Back in Birmingham he qualified as a chartered accountant after five years and transferred to Price Waterhouse's London office. One year later—in 1972 and at the age of 24—he joined the corporate advisory division of County Bank, the merchant banking subsidiary of National Westminster Bank.

It was there that, a year later, he met his future benefactor—an ambitious businessman named Phil Harris, the millionaire head of what is now the Harris Queensway chain of carpet and furniture retail outlets. In those days Harris was just selling carpets albeit as one of the largest retailers in the UK, and his links with County Bank were tenuous—and hesitant.

Deacon recalls that Harris "disturbed merchant bankers," an attitude that he says he helped to dispel when Queensway Discount Warehouses came up for sale in 1977. As an assistant director of County Bank he was given the responsibility of arranging a deal for Harris.

"It was a very difficult deal but I managed to persuade County to come up with the money—£2m of it—as a straight loan. Phil Harris thought perhaps the City wasn't as daft as he thought it was and we developed a close relationship. He found me approachable."

From then on their friendship went from strength to strength as Harris continued his drive for growth. First, there was the acquisition of the J. Ross carpet chain in Scotland, which was followed by the abortive bid to buy Timberland and the successful acquisition of Hardy and Co. (Furnishers).

In between Deacon handled the highly successful offer-for-sale of Harris Queensway, which put £2m into the Harris family pocket. Today his shareholding is worth over £20m.

"After Timberland I felt that I wanted to move," says Deacon. "Although I loved the people I worked with I wasn't sure I could spend the rest of my life in the City. As an employee I

had no self-determination and fundamentally I wanted to make my own mark."

"I knew I wasn't a very good employee but that I made quite a good leader. So I started to look for a way out—but what do you do? I wasn't exactly unsuccessful. By then I was a director of County Bank—one of the youngest in the City—with a bloody good salary, membership of BUPA, a car and a pension. But all this wasn't enough for me and I was quite unhappy."

Then, out of the blue, his chance came, via a telephone call from Hugh Sykes, Harris's non-executive deputy chairman, who said: "Phil hears that you want to do something on your own. He would be interested in being part of it."

Deacon recalls: "At that moment my life changed. Phil is an incredible man. I said to him I didn't know why he was doing it, but I took the opportunity, of course. There was nothing in writing when I left County Bank but we soon put a deal together."

To Deacon, a man with no direct industrial experience, the offer was a godsend—and beyond anything he could ever have hoped for, especially from a tough businessman.

Amazingly, Harris let him have £780,000 in the form of an unsecured interest-free loan. In addition he put up £75,000 equity in a new company—equal to an amount Deacon was able to raise through borrowings and a second mortgage—and persuaded Sykes to put up another £50,000—through Bamford Hall, a company he controls.

This gave Deacon and Harris almost 38 per cent each and Sykes slightly more than 24 per cent in the new company—called Deacon Industrial Group.

All the while Deacon had been casting around for potential ideas—and almost immediately stumbled across a plastics machinery business.

"I was looking for an engineering company that was making a product. A Luton-based company called Betol came to my attention through County Bank's merger advisory service. It made plastic extrusion systems.



Phil Harris—carpet salesman turned venture capitalist—with Andrew Deacon (insert) whom he is backing to the tune of £0.78m interest-free

"I took a close look at the sector and felt that plastics, in spite of having reached its 'mature' stage in the industrial cycle, had a long-term future. The Germans dominated the expensive end of the market, the Italians the cheaper side, while in the UK the sector was fragmented."

What attracted me to Betol was that it had cash in the bank—£200,000—and no unions. I bought it for £800,000 in May 1979."

Nightmare

In the next eight months with the help of bank borrowings, he also bought Laymer (G.T.) Products, a small manufacturer of plastic blow moulding machinery, for £25,000 and M. L. Shelley and Partners, a leading manufacturer of plastic thermoforming machinery, for £540,000.

In the midst of all this expansion, he went through what he describes as "a nightmare."

In 1979, when he left County Bank, trading conditions were encouraging. "Industrial production was at a peak and M.L.R. was 12 per cent. In less than six months industrial production had started to slump and M.L.R. was 17 per cent. The home market for Betol and Shelley

just melted away. However good I was, those conditions could have ended my career before it began. I was near to having a nervous breakdown."

So it was with some surprise, says Deacon, that he discovered towards the end of the year that Betol and Shelley were, in fact, doing rather well—thanks to exports. Shelley, until then not export-orientated, had begun to receive considerable overseas inquiries: within three months of acquisition, for instance, it had secured a £350,000 order from Saudi Arabia for machinery to make plastic egg-boxes, as well as a valuable Nigerian contract.

With exports jumping to around 60 per cent of total sales of £1.5m, group profits were a respectable £273,000 in the first year of operation to May, 1980. Since then exports have held up in spite of largely unfavourable currency movements and Deacon—having recovered his nerve—is confidently forecasting almost doubled profits in the current year.

Accepting that the home market is unlikely to see any growth for some time, his strategy is to continue his acquisition spree in plastic machinery—but to aim at two specific areas. One is UK companies which have either a high overseas exposure or the potential of substantial exports. To this end he has just

acquired Austin Allen, a leading manufacturer of injection moulding machines, for £205,000.

The other plan—and perhaps the more important—has been to acquire a manufacturing base in the U.S., the biggest plastics market in the world. "The best way out of the UK recession is to go multinational," he says.

To get there he has recently acquired all the stock and other assets of the plastics machinery division of a New England company, Beloit Corporation, in a \$7m deal that has necessitated a wider equity base for the group and increased gearing.

After visiting the U.S. and having decided on the target company, Deacon started talking to County Bank and McLeod Russell, a diversified international trading company ("John Campbell, who runs it, is an old chum"), with a view to their injecting equity into the company.

In the event County Bank put in £300,000 and McLeod Russell £800,000 for a tenth and a fifth respectively of the enlarged equity. This reduces Deacon and Harris's share to roughly 26 per cent each and Sykes's to 17 per cent.

To facilitate the U.S. deal County Bank has also lent Deacon \$450,000 while another \$2m has been borrowed from a U.S. bank through an advantageous State-aided scheme to purchase Beloit's 70,000 sq ft factory and office building in Massachusetts. The balance is due in deferred payments to Beloit over 18 months.

Deacon is confident he has done a good deal. "Beloit has a year's production in stock and we took over an order book of \$2m. Its annual sales last year were \$10m. It also gives us a base to market our UK machinery."

Uncertain

Although he has so far concentrated on plastics machinery, Deacon also believes that the manufacture of actual plastics products offers exciting opportunities—especially in oil-rich developing countries. He is already planning to form a company to make plastic medical tubing products in Mexico, using Betol extrusion machinery.

Long term he would like to go public. "What I want to do is put a company on the map that I have created. I want to regard myself as a successful industrialist."

Thanks to benevolent patrons, Andrew Deacon has the opportunity to do just that. All he has to do is to confirm their judgment of him—a task that will tax all his resources and which will require a steel nerve in today's uncertain climate.

And the simplest way to pay.



Six-abreast Super Club is now available on British Airways 747 non-stop flights from London to seven destinations in the USA (nine from October 11th).

With the American Express Card, you can pay for practically all your expenses when you travel abroad.

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LOMBARD

Why Reagan should raise taxes

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

AS PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan calls for cutting taxes, the administration is also considering raising them. The administration's budget for 1982, which is being prepared by the Treasury Department, is expected to include a 10 per cent increase in the top marginal rate of the income tax, from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. This would be a significant increase, and it is likely to be met with opposition from the public and Congress.

Burden

This is a distasteful political option, of course, and it would probably take another 100 point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average before he would even consider it. But it would not be wholly inconsistent with the kind of free market approach that lies at the heart of his philosophy. Transferring the burden of taxation from income to consumption increases, in theory at any rate, the individual's ability to decide how he wants to spend the money he has earned. Mr. Thatcher felt quite comfortable cutting income tax and raising VAT even in the first flush of his administration, and heaven knows where her budget would be now if VAT was not at 15 per cent.

But surprisingly little of this option is heard in the U.S., a country that has virtually no tradition of federal taxation on consumption, and where VAT is still treated as an academic notion.

Suggested

One of the few people who has advocated it in public is Mr. Milton Friedman, a senior economist at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, the large New York bank. In testimony to the House Budget Committee a few days ago, he suggested that the Administration consider introducing a low-rate consumption tax which exempted food and other essentials so that it was not regressive. Such a tax, he said, "could be a powerful revenue-raiser, and would be

entirely consistent, it seems to me, with the rationale underlying this year's reshaping of tax statutes."

Mr. Friedman was realistic enough to admit that his suggestion is not exactly going to make people dance for joy in the streets, particularly since one tax looks like any other to the general public, whatever its purpose. "But," he goes on, "given the size of the budget problem that exists, we may not be able to avoid actions to enlarge Treasury receipts." Sales taxes have traditionally been levied at a state or municipal level and they currently range anywhere between zero and 10 per cent. But if Mr. Friedman is to consider this option, he would have to move fast.

It is already clear that his cuts in Federal subsidies to local authorities will shortly force a lot of them to raise sales taxes to balance their own budgets. This has already happened in New York where the sales tax is being raised by 1 per cent to 8.1 per cent to help keep the city transport system alive.

A tax on consumption might also take the form of elimination of the night enjoyed by the American taxpayer to deduct interest on consumer loans from taxable income. A move that would make it more expensive to buy on credit. The justification for this would be even stronger than a sales tax since it would tackle a number of problems at once.

It would increase the real rate of interest, putting a check on demand which is partly responsible for the present high rate of inflation. It might also sharpen the edge of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy by improving the effectiveness of high interest rates—which so far seem to have had little or no effect on consumer borrowing.

Internationally it would be popular since it would align U.S. practice more closely with that of its major commercial partners who have argued that the tax concession helps keep U.S. interest rates high.

9.00 News.
9.25 Angela Ripston Meets The
Image-Makers.
10.15 Ian Botham.
10.45 Melvyn Bragg: The Making of
the English Language.
11.00 News.
11.15 The Fishing Race.
All Regions as BBC1 except as follows:

Cymru/Wales—12.37-1.00 pm
News of Wales. 3.10-3.35 Bobol
Bach. 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 7.40-
8.00 Heddidi. 7.15 Angels. 7.40-
8.00 Zulu Wilderness. 12.00 News
and Weather for Wales.
Scotland—12.34-1.00 pm The
Scottish News. 6.00-6.25 Reporting
from Scotland. 12.00 News and
Weather for Scotland.
Northern Ireland—12.37-1.00 pm
Northern Ireland News. 3.35-
3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-
6.25 Scene Around Six. 12.00
News and Weather for Northern
Ireland.
England—6.00-6.25 pm Look
East (Norwich); Look North
(Leeds); Look North (New-

IN ONE important respect, George Orwell was wrong about 1984. There will not be one big brother watching the population, but a mass audience of television viewers increasingly in control of his brother (the programme controller).

Some of that mass audience were sweating it out in Berlin in the last week, looking at the products of 322 exhibitors at the International Funkausstellung (in English now known as the Audio and Video Fair).

Exhibitions are rarely the easiest of places for gleaning what's new, but they do give the expert observer a chance to gather some perspective on trends. For me, the emerging image is clear: television is on the threshold of a metamorphosis, not only because of video and the liberation of the viewer from programme controllers, but also because of the multitude of technical developments that will be filtering through to the consumer.

Hi-fi and stereo sound on television is one which almost dominated the Berlin show, during which West Germany also inaugurated TV broadcasting in stereo with coincident stereo blurring (to begin with only a few programmes each month will be transmitted in stereo). Thus numerous exhibitors such as Grundig, Philips and Sony all had on display stereo TV receivers. These will help revive

the TV industry now that colour has almost run its course. Philips also exemplified a possible trend towards the modular TV set, where hi-fi amplifier, audio inputs, tuners, video-cassette recorder and loudspeakers are all separate units, but designed to fit into single cabinets. This same modular approach marked the beginning of the explosion in domestic hi-fi over 20 years ago and it begins to look like history repeating itself.

Hi-fi is going to be very important in the video age because so much of the newly-created programming for video will be aimed at music lovers (at both ends of the spectrum). JVC believes in this enough to have made its VHS video disc player also double as a really high fidelity audio disc system (known as AHD), although the competing Philips Laser Vision system has such good stereo sound on its video discs some may wonder why a separate system is needed at all.

Yet Philips has developed a separate hi-fi player based on the same optical-laser technology as its LaserVision video disc. That has been known about for a long time (and demonstrated) but last week was my own first sampling of the so-called Compact Disc—actually on the Grundig stand. It is unquestionably superb, and with

such clean background noise that the Grundig demonstrators found it difficult to know if the disc had started to play (until the sudden loud crash of an opening chord, in stereo, frightened all out of their uncertainty).

Grundig, Sony and others will be marketing the system within the next 18 months. It uses digital recording techniques; a one-hour disc is small enough to span only two and a half column widths of this

article; and like the video disc it is insensitive to handling and wear.

JVC's audio disc is larger, like its 10-inch video disc, but unlike the Philips system one player is common to video and audio discs. Curiously, however, at a Berlin press demonstration of VHS, JVC failed to mention AHD. Why? I had asked Grundig, who when LaserVision is so excellent on hi-fi anyway? Because, Grundig said, everyone will find the smaller discs so convenient for audio—they will even go in the glove compartment of a car. But JVC's return to my query was, what wants

minor problem over picture area when NTSC is played on PAL (a problem JVC claims will be overcome for domestic users).

It is difficult to get away from video, even after yesterday's major survey on the subject in the Financial Times. Sony's West German company reported that sales of its Betamax video-cassette recorder now account for 30 per cent of its turnover. But Germany is almost the spiritual home for the V2000 system which Philips and Grundig are pioneering: Grundig's latest has stereo sound and will later incorporate automatic track switching and reversing at the end of the cassette—so that the 2 x 4hr flip-over cassette will no longer have to be manually flipped over to provide the second four hours.

Portable video was another emerging trend at Berlin. Not just the ultimate development of the video camera with built-in micro-cassette recorder (Sony, Hitachi, Matsushita and Sanyo all have non-compatible prototypes) but in the short term, lightweight video recorders carried on a shoulder strap, connected by cable to a lightweight colour video camera.

There are various systems of this type about to be marketed. One philosophy is to make them looking all alike except that those with hi-fi stereo TV more equal than others.

FILM AND VIDEO

BY JOHN CHITTOCK

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video disc system shown at Berlin, JVC played NTSC discs on PAL and SECAM machines and vice versa; the one disc can now serve players and TV sets operating on any of the three normally incompatible technical standards.

Theoretically this means that video disc production runs could be centred in one country to serve all three territories (which are, approximately, North America and the Far East for NTSC, PAL for Western Europe and Eastern European countries). The demonstration was convincing, with no loss of quality, although there is some

Eddery delays mount decision

NO JOCKEY can be looking forward to next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with quite the same enthusiasm as he has been in the past. The decision to postpone the race to October 4 has been a disappointment to many, but it is a necessary one.

At Longchamps on Sunday, Vincent O'Brien's stable jockey had been expected to make a decision after the Prix Foy on whether he would ride Beldade.

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Flutter or Detroit on October 4. However, no announcement was forthcoming. It is easy to understand why. Not only is Beldade Flutter "better than ever," according to his astute handler, Michael Jarvis, but Detroit did all that was asked of her in landing the Prix Foy. Although the C&H handler has announced Storm Bird (syndicated for \$30m to stand

the search is surely on for a top jockey to take the plumb ride on Beldade Flutter who is down as short as 4-1 in one list.

YARMOUTH
3.15—Sandwaker**
3.45—Unblashed
4.45—Caribbean Blue
LINGFIELD
2.30—Eight Roses
3.00—Colonial Lion
3.30—Santa Monica***
4.00—Ball Hyatt
REDCAR
3.00—Pitter Pat
5.00—Go Metro*

Plan to raise Tudor wreck

REVISED plans for lifting the 436-year-old wreck of the Tudor warship Mary Rose from the Solent seabed are being made by experts. The project has been supported by Prince Charles.

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THE ARTS

London galleries

Autumn delights

by WILLIAM PACKER

For the poor art critic it is September that really is the chillest month, mixing the memory of all those well earned days of idleness with not much the desire for the return to the daily round, more dutiful acceptance of the inevitable. And suddenly there it all is in a rush, 20 or more shows opening last week in London alone, almost as many to follow this week, some of the first importance and a most encouragingly high proportion of the others worthwhile to say the least. The week is just not long enough to see all of even the best of them.

But what can one do but plunge in? Once in the water is lovely. The good things are to be found as much in the centre of London as anywhere, but it happens that lately I have also been venturing somewhat further afield, into the nearer suburbs, and so for the moment such matters as Leslie Waddington's further colonisation of Cork Street, with an exhibition of recent paintings by Dufort to inaugurate his new gallery (until October 31), or Stephen Buckley's work just down the road at Keston, or Jill and Bruce Leacy's extra-

ordinary installation cum performance at ACME (only until September 19 and, sad to say, the gallery's swan song), must all wait upon another chance.

Even the show of modern British sculpture at Whitechapel, perhaps the most important current show of 20th century work, Picasso apart, must wait a while for its proper notice, for it is but part one of a double header, and I suspect that the insights it affords, and the questions it raises, must wait upon part two for their resolution. Which means that a trip to Whitechapel in the meantime is absolutely necessary for those of us with any interest in modern British Art. British Sculpture in the 20th Century is an extraordinarily ambitious undertaking, for the subject is as full of complexity as it is of surprises, at once obscure, idiosyncratic and of the highest international class. At the end of it all the organisers will have shown us examples of the work of more than 120 artists, and whether or not they have made sense of them remains to be seen.

Part one, I must say, is the happiest of auguries, sensibly ordered and full of beautiful

and remarkable things. We are taken easily from late Victorian monuments and languid fin de siècle classicism, through art nouveau and the influence of Rodin, quickly into the Primitive, the Archaisms and the Modern, and so into the Vortex and on to Abstraction and Surrealism and the Figuration of the forties, step by step.

There are many heroes: Henry Moore we know about, but how good he looks set among his peers, and Barbara Hepworth, too, whose earliest work stands as fresh and radical as anything she, or any of her contemporaries, for that matter, ever did. There are by no means alone: there are also Epstein, clearly a central figure, forceful and adventurous, and Eric Gill, and Henry Gaudier-Brzeska who was perhaps the most gifted of them all and certainly one of the greatest losses to art of World War One. Frank Dobson comes into the light, and Eric Kennington under his sculptor's hat, obscure figures like Maurice Lambert, and unexpected ones like Gertrude Hermes with her elusiveness.

Part one: Image and Form 1901-50, selected by Nicholas Serota and Sandy Nairne, and

sponsored by British Petroleum and the Henry Moore Foundation, remains at Whitechapel until November 1, and should not be missed.

Across London, one to the north and one to the west, are exhibitions that bring us two senior and distinguished painters from remotest Cornwall; but there the similarity ends. The Penwith Peninsula beyond Penzance and St Ives has notoriously been colonised by artists long since, but the better of them, even in the days when the St Ives School was identifiably a major force, have always risen above any easy regimentation: Karl Weschke and Patrick Heron are nothing if not their own men.

We for our part are nothing if not equivocal in our attitudes towards immigrants and aliens and refugees. Weschke, a German and a prisoner of war, has lived here since 1945, yet though his work has been included in several representative exhibitions of British art over the years, his remains a coterie rather than a general reputation—which is both unfair and wasteful.

He is a figurative expressionist, his work characteristically dark and towering in tone,

the colour, though rich in itself, severely constrained often almost to the condition of monochrome. He places his figures, so simply and vigorously stated, in a clear, empty, ambiguous space, the female nude sprawling or stretching in a dark interior, his horses, riders, dogs, set up alone on a vast and empty beach, as it might be on the edge of the world. These are threatening, sinister and violent images, sometimes overtly so as the horse rears, the dog sneers and snarls towards us, or the women writhe suggestively in the darkness, together or alone. Even the calmer images are charged with a latent physicality, the sense of a storm about to break.

A small but typical selection of his work is now on show at Moira Kelly Fine Art (97, Essex Road, N1, until October 7) along with a number of drawings and related studies, altogether well worth the journey into the north.

Patrick Heron's work is to be seen at Riverside Studios (until October 4) where he is showing a few of the paintings that he showed at the University of Texas in 1978, where he was visiting lecturer. Heron is a self-declared colourist, concerned, as he cleverly puts it in the title to his Texas lectures, with "The Colour of Colour" by which I take it he means the physical reality of colour, and the palpable experience it affords. And indeed, through the sophisticated interplay of complementary and secondary, the physical sensation of colour hums and flickers across the eye-balls.

But all this suggests a certain theoretical preoccupation, yet Heron is markedly reluctant to commit himself absolutely, with none of the rigid simplicity of Albers, for example, nor even the more delicate regularity of Rothko. Instead Matissean figures flutter across the large flat colour fields of his canvases, the movement lateral rather than pictorial with everything locked into the jigsaw puzzle surface. Heron, who has been among the most atmospheric and suggestive of our abstract painters, has been in this corner for some time, and one cannot but wish that once again he would give his painterly intuition if not its head exactly, at least considerably more rein.

Wigmore Hall

Elizabeth Connell

Elizabeth Connell is such a familiar singer at Covent Garden and the Coliseum it was hard to believe that on Sunday at the Wigmore Hall saw her London debut as a solo recitalist. The moment has been delayed to good effect; Miss Connell emerged from her programme with an already considerable reputation further enhanced.

Her choice of songs ranged widely and through four languages, but it was in German songs and German texts that she was most impressive. Rossini's mini scene, the three songs of *La Regina Venetiana*, were used as a sparkling opening, to settle nerves and flex the vocal muscles, but they hardly

prepared one for the Wesendonck *Lieder*, which Miss Connell patterned with the subtlest half-shades, and sustained the longest lines with unwavering tone. (She has recently returned from singing Ortrud and Brangäne at Bayreuth, and her Wagner had a stamp of authority.) A Wolf group of five songs chosen from both Spanish and Italian Songbooks as well as the Mörike settings was clearly planned to demonstrate every facet of the singer's rapidly developing craft—her ability to find an unexpected lightness of tone, a comic timing and a consistent feeling for the language.

In Duparc, however, the matching of voice and songs was

less precise. "L'Invitation au Voyage" can be made to sound the most perfect song ever written, in the right performance, but Miss Connell missed something of its flexibility and suaveness, though each phrase was most carefully tended. She dealt better with the less sophisticated "Chanson Triste." De Falla's *Seven Popular Spanish Songs* completed the announced programme and the quartet of languages. Uncomplicated high spirits for the most part, though "Nana" provided a sweet oasis of repose, and the final "Polo" was a resounding release of all tension. The uneven pianist was Geoffrey Parsons.

ANDREW CLEMENTS

Book Review

The modest fiddler

by MICHAEL COVENEY

Topol by Topol. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £8.50. 222 pages.

The best thing to be said about Topol's autobiography is that it makes no great claims for itself. It is a modest, reasonably well written account of an Israeli actor's life. Progress to international renown happened to coincide with the birth of a nation.

Topol played Teyve the dairyman in *Fiddler on the Roof* in London in 1967. He has, of course, done lots of other things, made many films, met many people and ate a lot of food. But none of that is of any interest to us. Topol knows that, shrugging off pages and pages of completely tedious recollection with a beguiling charm. As a film actor he is, he admits, inevitably fourth choice for Jewish or Mediterranean character parts behind the late Zero Mostel, Alap Arkin and Peter Ustinov.

Fiddler made him a star and the film, directed by Norman Jewison, completed the process while destroying the musical. Topol has never repeated that success—the follow-up project,

The Baker's Wife was a resounding flop—and his appearances at the Chichester Festival Theatre have done nothing to cement any sort of stage reputation.

There is nothing exceptional about Topol's life story, but he tells the tale pretty well. Brought up in the Florentine Quarter of Tel Aviv, he has vivid recall of the last days of the British Mandate and of his development as a non-Marxist socialist, *kibbutznik*, and popular entertainer. There is enough evidence here to suggest that Topol's gifts have only been exploited by *Fiddler*. He remains a key figure in Israeli culture thanks to his entertainment group Lahakat.

Hanah and his famous appearance in *Sallah*. I would put heavy money on him being much more interesting in *Sallah* than as "the Greek" in *For Your Eyes Only*.

Topol's father was a plasterer, his mother a heroic cook with a sewing-machine in the corner. He flew home for the Six Days' War in the middle of *Fiddler* and has had the ear of Ben Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Teddy Kollek, and many others. His show business friends include Danny Kaye, Salvador Dali, David Niven, and Roger Moore. He is loyal to his background, his family, and his roots. He sounds quite a pleasant chap. But what on earth is it all doing between hard covers?

'The Oresteia' at the Olivier

The National Theatre is to present from the end of November Aeschylus' trilogy *The Oresteia* in a version by Tony Harrison, directed by Peter Hall. All three plays in the trilogy (*Agamemnon*, *Choephori*, *Eumenides*) are staged at each performance.

As part of the National repertoire, *The Oresteia* can have only 20 performances to the end of January. Each starts at 5.00 pm and ends at about 10.00 pm. There are two intervals, the first lasting 30 minutes. Special arrangements will be made for full buffet meals and quick restaurant service.

The Oresteia opens on Saturday November 28, preceded by five reduced price previews. It will be given in the Olivier Theatre.



Karl Weschke and Patrick Heron



Architecture

Swimming against the tide

by GILLIAN DARLEY

The authorities whose unenviable task it is to regenerate the depressed inner urban areas of our cities are becoming used to spending large sums of money: what might be termed "guilt money," meted out to salve the consciences of the Government of the moment. But to receive the money is one thing—to spend it well, quite another.

What follows then is a good news story, though it has as its background years of apparently fruitless endeavour, words in place of action and, meanwhile, environmental deterioration continuing at an inexorable pace.

A few years ago a group of Newcastle-upon-Tyne residents, from the down-at-heel western sector of the city, were found splashing about in the ornamental pool outside the Civic Centre. The object of their activities was to draw attention to the fact that three swimming pools had been closed in the area in preceding years and the replacement remained resolutely attached to a drawing board within the city council architects' department.

The "swim-in" did the job: it was resolved to build a new pool and to site it within the grounds of Elswick Hall. The house was demolished in 1973 and the park which had, over the years, become less and less of a public asset was to be remodelled, allowing for new all-weather sports pitches, the retention of one bowling green, a new pavilion for users of these amenities, as well as landscaping which would allow the best use to be made of its strongest asset—the mature trees—while improving the life of the ground and the pathway system.

This ambitious programme cost close on £200, 75 per cent of that from Inner City Partnership money. The architects responsible for both park and pool were the Napier Collart Partnership and it was their experience in the field of swimming pool design (they were responsible for an award-winning pool in a similarly leafy setting at Richmond, North Yorkshire) as well as the skills of a landscape architect within the practice that singled them out as appropriate consultants. That the people responsible for different parts of the whole could argue the toss under the same office roof was important to the successful outcome of the scheme and a close working

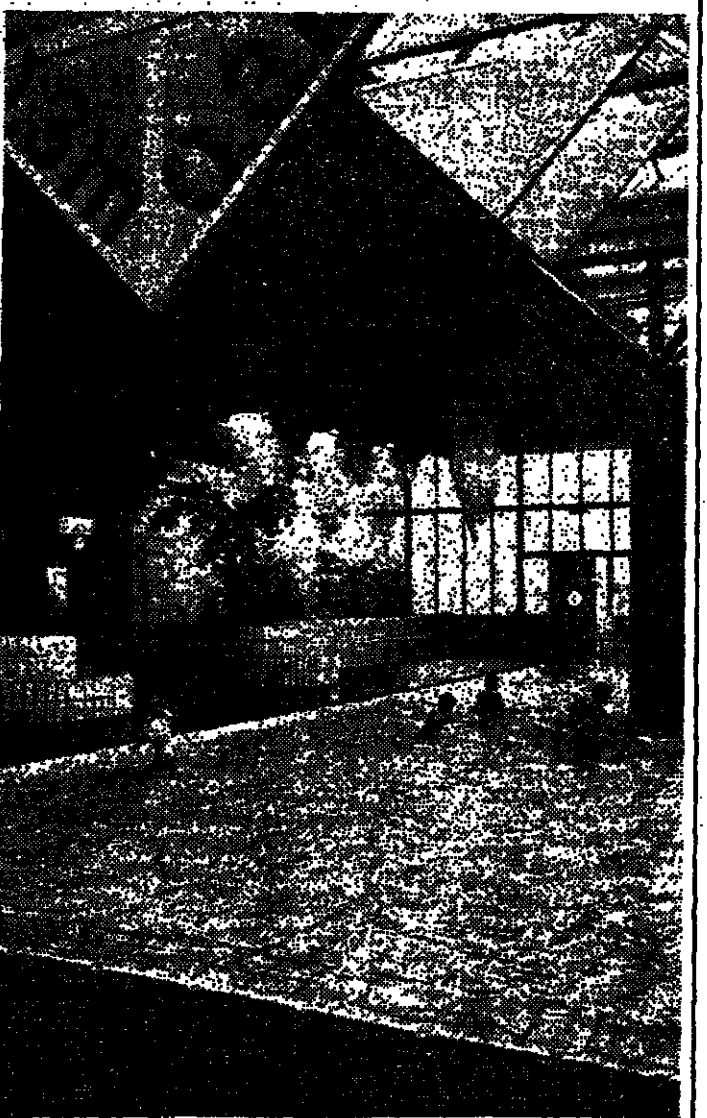
relationship is immediately apparent in the results.

Elswick Pool is, intentionally, a late 20th century variant on the glazed Victorian conservatory or pavilion. It is a building of glass and metal, black and red, respectively, with strongly etched roof ridges appearing through the trees, as when it is glimpsed from the top of the site (the park is on a marked slope and gives spectacular views over the Tyne) or presenting a foreboding skyline when viewed from below. The pool occupies, more or less, the site of the old Hall and the park still focuses on it, though approaches have been altered and the Victorian formality of the centre section has gone.

Inside, the pool is an enormously cheerful place. There is a complete range of swimming facilities, except for specialist competitive or diving provision, and it is a free form, which makes the building appear less formal. Plants spill from drum-shaped containers, trellis screens and patterned tiling in strong, bright colours, break up the expanse and overhead the scarlet exposed steelwork of the roof structure is punctuated by canary yellow acoustic baffles which double as depth markers to the water below. Swimming is the obvious first function of the building but it also has an inviting snack bar, plenty of seating spaces and an upper level club room.

The pool and park together are an adventurous leap into the unknown. If the residents of the west end of Newcastle do not accept Elswick as theirs, then the whole venture will have been largely in vain. Every effort is being made on the management side to bring the people of the neighbourhood into the running of the place and this everybody hopes, will be its own best deterrent to vandalism. There are risks, the pool is a high quality building—not a wind-proof bunker—and the park, with its dense areas of new perimeter planting and smart reinstated gates and railings could equally attract the energies of local discontented youth.

Nevertheless, the whole venture is one of confidence, designed to give back self-esteem to a long-neglected area and its residents, and the signs, so far, are that the money could hardly have been better spent.



A view of Elswick Pool

Delius Festival in 1982

A festival to celebrate the music of Frederick Delius is to be held at the University of Keele, in Staffordshire, from March 8 to 14 1982.

It is only the fourth such festival to be held.

The opening concert of the 1982 festival will feature the Orchestra da Camera.

Other concerts will be given by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by the noted Delius specialist, Norman Del Mar, the Lindsay Quartet, and the University of Birmingham Music Society Choir and Orchestra.

The final concert of the festival will follow the tradition established by Sir Thomas Beecham in the first two festivals and will end with a full performance of Delius's *A Mass of Life*, to be held in the Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.

Sponsorship, still being sought for some of the concerts, has already been promised by such diverse organisations as the Government of Norway, the Delius Trust, West Midlands Arts, the Ceramic City Choir and Evode (manufacturers of Evostick).

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Tuesday September 15 1981

An old-style crisis

THERE CAN be no doubt that by all the traditional criteria, the action of the Bank of England yesterday in raising money market interest rates by a little over one percentage point was thoroughly justified, possibly overdue and probably inadequate. It was designed to check both an accelerating decline of sterling in the exchange markets and a rapid rise in private credit demand. The Bank, therefore, intervened forcefully: this move, unlike earlier nudging of the markets, is intended to provoke a sharp rise in clearing bank base rates, which may well go up by 2 per cent as a result, and no doubt in building society rates too.

The need for such a move, however, represents a sharp setback for the Government's economic strategy. The need to protect sterling can be blamed largely on forces outside the Government's control — the high level of U.S. interest rates, and the very weak state of the oil market. The fact that there are also domestic arguments for higher rates comes nearer home. The rise in credit demand may be partly a consequence of the fall in sterling, and resultant fears of future price rises; but it is also a result of an aggressive drive into new credit markets by the banks. There has been no sign of effective credit restraint in recent months.

Symbolic value

So far as the exchange markets are concerned, yesterday's move may have a symbolic value which cannot be calculated in terms of arbitrage gaps and forward rates. As long as the UK authorities treated the exchange markets with benign neglect, they seemed to acquiesce in the fall, and arguments for a switch out of sterling were strongly reinforced.

It is now clear that the Government wants to check the fall. It remains to be seen whether this fact is enough to give a modest extra margin over D-mark rates enough power to stabilise this key rate.

It remains to be seen, too, whether a rise of two per cent in the cost of credit is enough to check personal borrowers. Ministers must also wonder how far it is desirable. The unexpected strength of retail sales

and car registrations in August could be read as a welcome sign of recovery rather than a threat of inflation: it was to make such a recovery possible that the Government changed the balance of its policies in March. However, borrowing for consumer purchases should not on its own be a great threat to monetary policy, for there are large offsets as the cash flow of retailers and manufacturers is improved. So far as the money is spent on imports, the effect will be seen in the current account rather than in the growth of the money supply. A net rise in domestic borrowing and money holding is likely to represent either a recovery in activity, which the Government will hardly want to nip in the bud, or a rise in domestic lending for non-productive purposes. It requires no great detective skill, nor any access to information obscured during the Civil Service dispute, to point to such a rise. The clearing banks and indeed the official Trustee Savings Bank have been moving aggressively into the housing finance market for some months. They have committed sums to investment and promotion which would hardly be possible without tacit official approval.

Conflict

Here there is a clear conflict between the Government's prejudice in favour of the widest possible competition in all markets and its monetary and economic objectives. The Government has suffered much fiscal agony and has made its own aggressive move into the personal savings market with the single aim of freeing funds for productive investment. Allowing the banks to move into the gap left in the mortgage market short-circuits part of this effort and inflates the money supply in a meaningless way. Traditionalists would also argue that it is unsound banking.

Even if these domestic contradictions were sorted out, the level of dollar interest rates would pose a dilemma for the UK, as it does for all European governments; but this can be resolved only through continued neglect, allowing the dollar to become sufficiently over-valued to discourage further flows, or through concerted action. It is at home rather than internationally that yesterday's rise marks a policy failure.

Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet

IT WAS clearly a coincidence that the Government should have raised interest rates on the day of the Cabinet reshuffle, but the message from both developments is the same. As the Prime Minister made plain in her radio interview last week, there is to be no substantial change in economic policies whatever the Government's present unpopularity.

It follows from that that the best way of pursuing those policies is to have a united Cabinet. For it has been the administration of Mrs Thatcher's administration so far that some of the most damaging criticism has come from within the Cabinet itself. It is not that Ministers who disagree with the policies have put up a coherent alternative, but rather there has been a process of continual sniping which has served to undermine the Government's credibility.

Mrs Thatcher's objective was thus to create a Cabinet more after her own way of thinking, but without sending too many powerful figures to the back benches.

Promotion

In fact, the Prime Minister seems to have picked up where she left off in a smaller reshuffle last January. The chief characteristic then was the strengthening of the Treasury team through the promotion of Mr Leon Brittan to Chief Secretary while his predecessor, Mr John Biffen, was rewarded with his own department. Mr John Nott, a Thatcher admirer, was promoted to Defence Secretary.

Again this time all the main supporters of the economic policies have remained in the Cabinet. They have been joined by two others — Mr Norman Tebbit, who takes over at the Department of Employment and can be expected to adopt a tougher approach to trade union reform, and Mr Nigel Lawson who goes to Energy, having been Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the new FSI, is a right-wing intellectual whose appointment again signals no change in economic thinking.

The only member of the Cabinet who has been dropped and who is likely to cause trouble from the back benches is Sir Ian Gilmour. Indeed his criticisms already began in a series of interviews yesterday.

Along with Mr Norman St John-Stevas, who was sacked last time, he can be expected to keep up an intellectual challenge from the party's paternalist wing. But Mrs Thatcher evidently calculated that he does not have too great a following.

It must have been touch and go, however, with Mr James Prior. On the face of it he is an excellent choice for Northern Ireland, he has considerable powers of conciliation and a high reputation in the country and the party. If any Tory Minister is equipped to take a new Irish initiative, it is he. Yet his appointment has been marred by the wranglings and lack of communication between him and the Prime Minister, which preceded it. Mr Prior came very close to deserting to the Press which notes he would or would not accept.

There are also one or two moves which, while having nothing inherently wrong with them, appear to have no obvious explanation. The shifting of Sir Keith Joseph from Industry to Education falls into that category. Sir Keith is a humane man with many of the qualities for the job, but we know that before, there is no reason to think that industrial policy will be much different under Mr Patrick Jenkin or that Sir Keith will now be free to spend more of his time thinking about general policy development: his forte in opposition.

Burden

Yet if Mrs Thatcher now has a Cabinet more in her own image, it has yet to be shown that she can put it to the best use. Much of it comes back to the industrial policy trouble in the relations between Mr Prior and the Prime Minister was not that they disagreed on most of the major policy issues. In fact, they frequently saw eye to eye, except on the trades unions. It was a clash of temperaments which made it difficult to work together. Mrs Thatcher cannot afford to alienate too many people of his appeal. There may now be an appeal and faithful economic team around her, but none of them are exactly capable of stirring the national consciousness. There is a very heavy burden on the Prime Minister herself to present her policies to the country.

THE SERMONS delivered at Frankfurt's 13th Catholic and Protestant churches earlier this month took an unusual turn. Alongside the normal messages of spiritual uplift the faithful were urged "to fight, where men and women are losing their daily bread."

On the way out churchgoers were urged to sign the petition and join the campaign to save more than 4,000 threatened jobs in the city.

In following days the church bells rang in the shabby working class Gallus quarter of the city, not to urge the people to mid-week services but to bring them out on to the streets to demonstrate.

The unprecedented mobilisation of public opinion locally in Frankfurt—and on the wider stage of state and federal politics—combined last week to make Volkswagen, the country's second largest industrial corporation, retreat from plans to close Frankfurt's historic Adler typewriter works with the total loss of 3,500 jobs.

If Volkswagen had followed its business instincts nothing would have stood in the way of the plant being consigned to Germany's industrial scrapheap. Closure was the "optimum business solution" to the desperate structural problems facing the Adler plant.

What saved the day—at least for the moment—was an unprecedented campaign against the closure orchestrated by the

The development of high technology industries has been seen as a necessary strategy for the advanced countries. Volkswagen's purchase of Triumph-Adler, the veteran office equipment company, seemed to fit the bill. But, as Prof Friedrich Thomée, the acting chief executive (right) admitted last week, it has bought major problems. Plans to shut Adler's Frankfurt plant have been modified after fierce local opposition and VW's experience again raises questions about companies' abilities to diversify into unrelated fields.

trade unions, the churches and local and national politicians, which surprised and shocked the VW board in Wolfsburg. Volkswagen's senior executives discovered almost overnight a sense of social duty.

"People have a higher priority," said Professor Friedrich Thomée, acting VW chief executive articulating the com-

pany's new business gospel. For the first time since it acquired Triumph-Adler in early 1979, VW had intervened directly in the company's day-to-day management to veto T-A's most direct solution to its difficulties, the shutting of the Frankfurt plant.

VW's U-turn graphically highlights the growing limitations

to corporate power that have grown up in the Federal Republic since workers' representatives were placed on company supervisory boards in the mid-1970s. But it illustrates, too, the peculiarly sensitive position of Volkswagen itself to social pressures.

The company is still 40 per cent owned by State interests—

20 per cent by the Federal Government and 20 per cent by the state of Lower Saxony. Its supervisory board includes as deputy chairman, Eugen Loderer, the country's most powerful trade union leader and head of IG Metall, West Germany's largest union, as well as under-secretaries of state from the Federal Econ-

omic and Finance Ministries and the Economics Minister of Lower Saxony.

With unemployment in West Germany rising to its highest level for 30 years, the trade unions are growing restive with what they see as the failure of the Social Democrat/Free Democrat coalition in Bonn to take measures to stimulate the economy in order to save jobs.

Volkswagen itself has offered to take up to 2,000 Triumph-Adler workers on to the payroll at its car plants in northern Germany, but for trade unionists in militant mood that is no solution. "Why should the workers go to the work?" demanded Franz Stein, chairman of the T-A workers' council in Frankfurt last week.

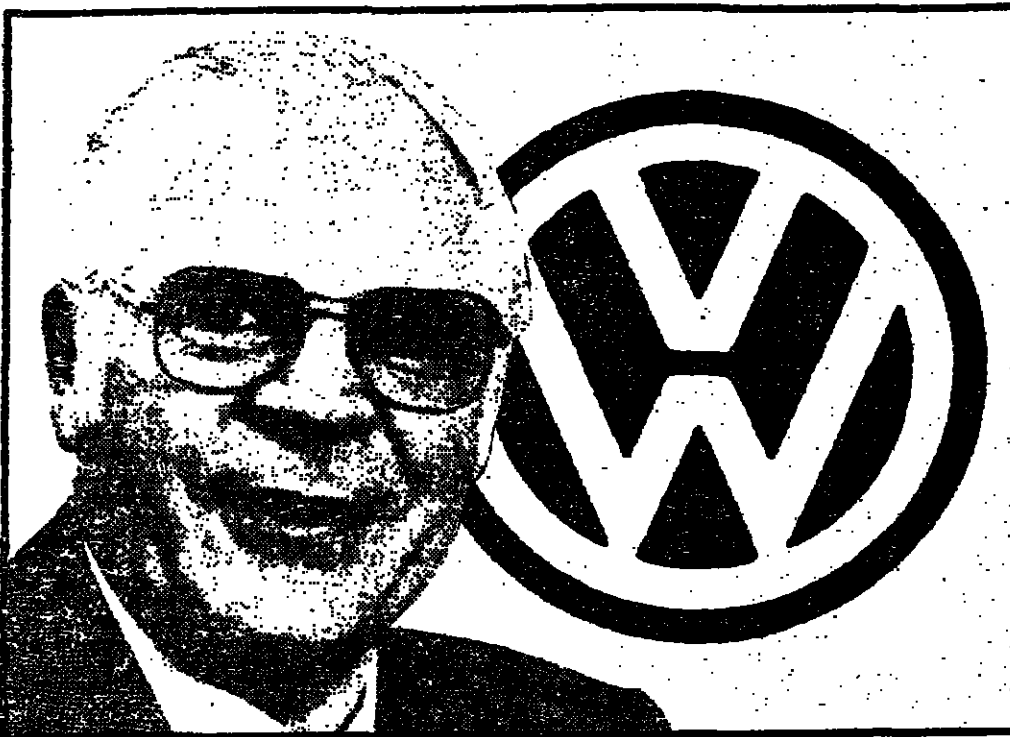
It is this attitude which promises to present West Germany with one of its biggest problems in adjusting to high and rising unemployment for the German worker is becoming notoriously immobile.

VW admitted that its decision to save the Adler works — it is cutting jobs there from 2,600 to 1,000 and is aiming to lose another 700 jobs at two other T-A plants elsewhere in Germany — will cost it at least DM100m in 1982-83. It has accepted that, however, as the price of trying to restore industrial peace to Triumph-Adler and of maintaining jobs in a city whose service sector is booming, but where the disappearance of industrial employment is threatening seriously to unbalance the labour market.

TRIUMPH-ADLER'S PROBLEMS

Volkswagen feels the heat

By Stewart Fleming and Kevin Done in Frankfurt



Why a takeover is turning into a nightmare

VOLKSWAGEN'S much-heralded diversification into what is widely seen as one of the boom markets of the decade, office equipment, is turning into a corporate nightmare.

West Germany's largest car maker has lavished in the region of DM 1bn (about \$420m) on the move into the totally unrelated business of office equipment buying control of Triumph-Adler—a company best-known for its typewriters, but now diversifying into computer-based office equipment.

VW thought that it was purchasing a business with assured future in this fast-growing field whose profits would help to offset the cyclical earnings of the motor industry. After two years, during which T-A's management was left largely to itself, the picture looks very different.

VW is now having to pump money and scarce management time into a company which cannot compete in the office equipment market without savage and expensive re-organisation. And this daunting restructuring comes in the middle of a worldwide motor industry recession which has helped to plunge its U.S. and Brazilian subsidiaries into losses and has pared the group's profits to the bone.

It has become apparent that when VW bought Triumph-

Adler its board had no clear idea about the company's prospects in the highly competitive office equipment market. "With Triumph-Adler we had not planned for losses but for profits and the development has been just the opposite," admits Professor Friedrich Thomée, acting chief executive of VW and one of the main architects of the move.

Not only VW, but also the Board of Triumph-Adler itself underestimated the speed with which the office equipment industry has moved and the impact which micro-electronics and the convergence of telecommunications and computer technology would have on Triumph-Adler's business.

Its products are still too heavily concentrated in the mechanical and electro-mechanical markets, such as mechanical and electrical typewriters. T-A's commitment to the "intelligent terminals" of the "office of the future" has come too late and is still inadequate, especially if it is to compete effectively. Companies like IBM, Nixdorf, Hewlett-Packard, Standard Elektrik Lorenz (part of ITT), Rank Xerox, Siemens are in the process of revolutionising the German office market and have left T-A far behind.

Earlier this month Triumph-Adler disclosed that it was examining a drastic re-organisation programme which would

have cut its domestic workforce by almost a third and meant the closure of its second largest German plant, the Adler works in Frankfurt.

In announcing last week that the venerable Adler works would not be closed after all, but that instead employment there would be cut from 2,600 to 1,000 with bigger cut-backs than initially proposed at two other plants at Nuremberg and Schwandorf, Prof Thomée did not disguise the scale of the challenge the company is facing.

He conceded that Triumph-Adler's losses this year would be in excess of the DM 80m reported last year, despite a 25 per cent rise in turnover to around DM 2bn from last year's DM 1.6bn.

In perhaps the most revealing commentary on VW's view of its troublesome subsidiary, Prof Thomée said it would be forced to look for a merger or co-operation agreements with other European office equipment producers to meet the challenge of U.S. and Japanese competition.

He confided ruefully that even this way out of the problem would only become practicable when the re-organisation measures had begun to bite.

When it announced the first step in its takeover of Triumph-Adler, Volkswagen made great play of the fact that it would maintain the independence of its new subsidiary, but the

arm's length relationship it established is now costing it dearly.

When it became clear that there was more amiss than just a downturn in the trade cycle, the motor manufacturer chose to stay on the sidelines itself, preferring to send in trouble-shooters from McKinsey, the management consultants.

The McKinsey team headed by 42-year-old Dr Friedrich Schiefer came up with a plan to re-structure Triumph-Adler into six product divisions.

The new organisation plan was not a cure for all ills, stresses Prof Thomée, but it was a pre-condition for future progress. "Previously it was impossible to see where responsibility lay or whose hands it was in," the VW finance chief admitted.

In practice responsibility lay largely in the hands of one man, 54-year-old Gerd Weers—28 years with Triumph-Adler, 12 of which were as chief executive. By the time the McKinsey team had finished its work Herr Weers' role in day-to-day management was also over.

The man Prof Thomée wanted to take over the troubled company was none other than Dr Friedrich Schiefer, the leader of the McKinsey study team. He was only ruled out when he pitched his demands for the job too high. He wanted not only the chairmanship of T-A, but also a seat on the main

Volkswagen board.

Prof Thomée himself is giving up the chairmanship of the Triumph-Adler supervisory board while staying as a member. Since the heart attack of Herr Toni Schmücker, the VW chief executive in June, he has had to assume the burdens of leading Volkswagen through the world motor industry recession while still coping with his job as head of the company's finance division. His position as chairman of the T-A supervisory board went last week to Herr Horst Münzer, the VW executive board member for purchasing.

VW's brief experience with Triumph-Adler—it began by purchasing the company in March, 1979 when it bought 54 per cent from Litton Industries, the U.S. conglomerate and by late 1980 had gained 98.4 per cent with further purchases from Litton and Diehl, the West German electronics group—has been a painful example of the pitfalls of diversification.

Flush with cash of over DM7bn built up as the German motor industry boomed in the second half of the 1970s, VW purchased its way into an industry in which it had no experience and was going through a period of revolutionary change.

The company into which VW poured its cash was not even its first choice. It turned to T-A after talks with Gutehoff-

nagshütte, West Germany's biggest mechanical engineering group, and after having failed to gain majority control of Nixdorf, the dynamic small business computer concern.

It settled instead for a company with a somewhat patchy record, T-A's origins lie in the manufacture of motor cycles and later cars and since the war it has passed through the hands of Grundig, the West German consumer electronics group as well as Litton.

Even before the dawn broke in Germany this month T-A had run into deep trouble elsewhere. Two works have already been closed in the Netherlands and nearly 1,000 jobs have been cut from the group's operations in the U.S.

As his push to expand the U.S. with a \$117m takeover in late 1979 of Perdec, the computer peripherals and data-processing systems manufacturer, brought more problems than it solved, T-A has been forced to cut its losses with the \$30m sales operation for data collection systems to Sperry Univac.

Volkswagen must now be hoping that the re-grouping of the European office equipment sector, which Prof Thomée referred to last week, will offset the motor company's chances of making a graceful emergency exit.

MEN AND MATTERS

Victor ludorum

A familiar figure in a rumpled blue jacket was to be seen putting in a Banquo-like appearance at the Playboy lounge hearings at Caxton Hall yesterday. For Victor Lowmes, still keen on getting back into the London gaming business, is occupying himself for the time being with an autobiography of his 26 years at Playboy, and was there on Press benches collecting material and chatting with the traditional bevy of lovelies.

But paying still closer attention to Lowmes's representative of one of the liveliest Sunday newspapers, which has signed up for advance revelations from the forthcoming work. Just another of the happy couplings which have made Caxton Hall so famous.

Steel girders

Though Liberal leader David Steel would no doubt get his way anyhow, he must be gratified by the enthusiasm with which the Asquith family heirs have rallied to the alliance with the Social Democrats.

After a long absence from active politics, Asquith's grandson Mark Bonham-Carter is at Llandudno this week making no secret of his willingness to be drafted as a candidate for the new cause.

Victor in the 1958 Torrington by-election, first of many false dawns since the war for the Liberals. Bonham-Carter rejected more new-found optimism than the badges around him proclaiming: "Support British Steel—smelt the Iron Lady."

age of 59, he is ready for the political fray again.

Brother-in-law and former party leader Jo Grimond has also been militantly advising Liberals "to welcome their allies as Wellington greeted Blucher at Waterloo."

A frustrated searcher for political realignments since the early 1960s, Grimond would personally like to see the Liberals and SDP amalgamate and be done with it. Not practical politics yet, he concludes. Events have brought a new spring to his step, however. What cheers him about the Social Democrats is the fact that they look so cheerful. Grimond: "Once again politics smells of hope and generosity, not gloom and back-biting."

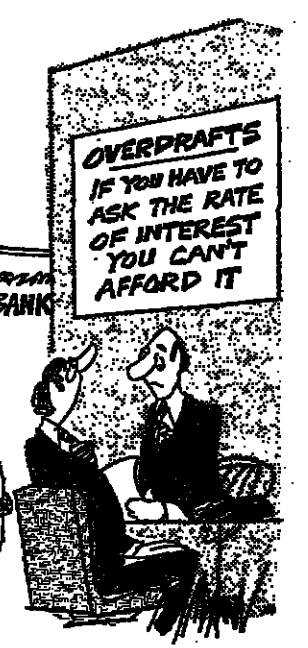
Jim'll fix it

"A prior commitment"—an understating made in the heat of the moment which is subsequently revoked.

Outcry

On the eve of the election, Norway's Minister of Consumer Affairs, Mrs Sissel Ronbeck, attended one of the most bizarre political meetings of the campaign—and left in tears.

The occasion was a combined rock concert and protest rally, climaxing a campaign against the high level of fines handed out to Oslo youngsters after street rioting earlier this year. It was attended by a colourful array of teenagers. Ronbeck was invited, together with Oslo's Conservative mayor Albert Nordengen, to listen to the youngsters' grievances. The mayor declined. The brave Ronbeck accepted. Jostled on the rostrum, subjected to a torrent of often obscene abuse, and with glowing cigarette stubs waved beneath her nose, she heard first-hand the litany of complaints which have rung through so many



European cities this year. Courageously, the minister stood her ground, affirming her support for the youngsters, and her conviction that politicians—whom she characterised as tucking themselves away behind shiny desks—should talk with them directly. Finally, her tenacity was rewarded with vigorous applause—and it was this that started the tears flowing. "I was more touched than upset," she later explained.

Bin ends

"The Survivors Wine Club" is not, as you might think, an association dedicated to the tasting of some of the more curiously Australian and North African table wines, but the faintly barmy branch of Protect and Survive Monthly, which argues that the perfect intermediate use for a nuclear shelter is as a wine cellar.

The magazine promises to offer through its club a "selection of wines for laying down—

plus a few for drinking while you wait." And just to reinforce the message that the holocaust has its acceptable face, Margaux wine-grower Alan Mialhe is being deputed for the enjoyment of members at an inaugural meeting.

Scot free

An apocryphal tale reaches me from Glasgow of a tax office which was deeply troubled by a local businessman who had registered a company two years ago, but had since neither filed returns nor answered the taxmen's inquiries.

Deciding that the time had come for action, the senior tax inspector despatched a stiffly worded letter telling the delinquent trader that he had been assessed for £10,000 of tax liability.

Two days later, the man appeared and, smiling benignly, slapped down on the inspector's desk an envelope stuffed with a thousand £10 notes.

The puzzled inspector decided that the assessment must have been too low, and sent a second letter demanding £100,000. The man reappeared and, with only slightly less good grace, left an attaché case with the required sum once more in cash.

What sort of business could the man be running, to pay £100,000 so readily after only two years? The bemused inspector followed smartly with a third demand for £1m.

To the tax office, the Glaswegian returned, this time far from amused, and struggling with a heavy case. "I've had enough of your demands," he grunted, "and if ye cannae make up your minds, ye can have the business and do the work yourselves. And so saying, he threw open the case to reveal a modest but evidently efficient printing press.

Observer

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John Edwards, Commodities Editor, says that raw material producers may try to take a leaf out of Opec's book as demand picks up next year

Commodities: the producers try again

NO ONE knows for sure the identity of the powerful groups now controlling the tin market and pushing prices to near record levels.

It could merely be a very costly speculative venture. It could be inspired by oil-rich individuals, by companies or by countries which want to build up stocks of a metal with limited known reserves to establish a sort of "mine" above the ground without actually buying a mining company.

On the other hand, it could have wider implications. There is widespread suspicion, supported by circumstantial evidence, that the manipulation of the market is backed by producers of countries angered by the refusal of consumers to agree to raise the International Tin Agreement price range.

If the producers have indeed decided to take unilateral action, this may herald a general change of attitude towards commodity price stabilisation by Third World countries. They have become increasingly disillusioned with every attempt to co-operate with consumers in international commodity agreements. And if the world economy does turn up next year they may well try to take advantage of it.

Ever since Opec shocked the industrialised world in 1974, there has been concern that producers of other vital raw materials might try the same tactic. In the case of tin, the main known reserves are in the developing world. Tin would, in theory, be an ideal candidate for a cartel since it is produced in only a few countries. Three of the leading producers—Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand—are clustered close together and share common political interests.

There is a rash of "Opecs" has already encourage industrialised countries to support the integrated commodities programme, formulated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) which would give Third World exporters a fairer deal. The programme includes the controversial common buffer stock fund which is supposed to provide financial backing for international commodity agreements. World market prices for a particular commodity would be controlled, if possible, within an agreed price range by means of support buying, by buffer stock funds in times of surplus and selling off any accumulated stocks when there is a shortage. In theory, the market would be constantly in balance and there would be no more wild price fluctuations.

But once the initial panic about cartels died down the industrialised world started to have second thoughts. Would international commodity agreements really work? Are they just a way of putting up prices? At most important of all, is it worth putting up funds aimed primarily at raising the cost of the industrialised world's imports?

The common buffer stock fund, initially planned to have resources of \$60m, has been whittled down to \$750m, of which only \$350m would be used to support buffer stock operations. The rest is supposed to be a second "window" providing funds for promotion and marketing. Negotiating new agreements has proved a long and tedious business. Industrialised countries have dragged their feet and there is considerable in-fighting among producers themselves.

The failure to make much progress has cast a shadow over the whole North-South dialogue between rich and poor countries and the producers fear that the Reagan Administration with its free market philosophy will make the task even more difficult. The EEC is not helping much either, although the election of President Mitterrand may make a difference.

Britain nowadays is known as a hardliner, only one step behind the U.S. in spite of its Commonwealth links. Constant disagreement between Common Market countries has made it extremely difficult for the EEC to play a positive role in negotiations. This emerges clearly from an examination of some individual commodities.

● **Sugar:** So far, the EEC has refused to join the International Sugar Agreement and is flooding the world market with heavily subsidised exports of surplus beet sugar. Last week there were signs that France might be willing to change its position and agree to join the Sugar Agreement, although hard bargaining can be expected on its export quota entitlement. The Sugar Agreement, with its mixture of export quotas and reserve stocks, linked to "trigger" prices, has not been able to control the market sufficiently.

● **Coffee:** The International Coffee Agreement has not been much more successful. Talks are currently going on in London to try to decide quota allocations, and price levels for 1981/82 season, but many delegates feel this is something of a farce since the Agreement has not prevented prices plunging through the "floor" level in spite of heavy cutbacks in quotas.

● **Cocoa:** The International Cocoa Agreement, which collapsed last year, has been renegotiated much to everyone's surprise. The prospect that support buying will start by October 1 at the latest has caused a dramatic rise in world cocoa prices from a five-year low of under 75 cents a lb to the present level of 106 cents.



Every working day 32 London Metal Exchange dealing members trade on the ring in copper, lead, tin, zinc and silver for clients in every industrial country in the world

They point out that the presence of known stocks depresses the market itself. It allows consumers to cut their stocks to low levels and encourages producers to boost output knowing they have an outlet.

However, the agreement does have a sliding scale: if the buffer stock acquires more than a certain amount of surplus cocoa within a 12-month period, the Agreement's price range is automatically lowered. The same applies in reverse: the price range is automatically increased if the buffer stock sells more than a certain amount.

● **Rubber:** A similar arrangement has been built into the national rubber agreement, which came into force provisionally last October, but has yet to be ratified by sufficient countries for the buffer stock to become operational.

The U.S. views the natural rubber pact as a possible model for commodity agreements generally. But it has not got off to an auspicious start. Recent reports that the Malaysian Government was holding back exports in an attempt to lift rubber prices from the depressed conditions in the market, and that Indonesia was planning similar measures, have caused some concern.

Consumers argue that there is not much point in having an agreement if producers are going to take unilateral action to push prices well above the range of the Agreement.

The U.S. and other consumer countries will be reluctant to ratify the pact and pay their contributions for the buffer stock fund if they think that the market has already been artificially inflated by producers. Malaysia claims that all it has done is to encourage private rubber growers to withhold supplies from the market while restricting export duties to help reduce "unhealthy speculative elements."

Negotiations for a new agreement to replace the existing pact which expires next June, were long and difficult. In the end, both Bolivia and the U.S. indicated they would probably not join and Britain and West Germany are none too keen as a result. The Americans are still considering the situation, but there is a body of opinion among producer countries that it is better for the U.S. to stay out. They claim the Americans are a disruptive element with a natural instinct to oppose any price range for raw materials and to encourage other consumers to do the same.

Although the producers have learned the hard way (especially in coffee and cocoa markets) that it is difficult to sustain a united front for non-essential or renewable commodities, they feel more positive action could be taken to control the market. Industrial rationalisation of the consuming countries means that buying power is now often concentrated in the hands of a relatively few big companies. Producers argue, therefore, that they have a perfect right to form similarly powerful sales groups to protect their interests. When demand for raw materials recovers to more normal levels, the world may have to adjust to a new drive to strengthen producer power.

Letters to the Editor

Major capital investments

From Mr I. Johnson.
Sir,—Spending £2.7bn on the proposed North Sea pipeline system to gather gas reported to be worth £25bn would seem to be a reasonable investment—this is not to say that smaller alternative schemes might not be even better. Yet this national investment seems likely to be a failure because of its effect on the public sector borrowing requirement. At the same time, the Government seems prepared to encourage considerably greater expenditure on a Channel tunnel or bridge, the economic and political benefits of which (to Britain) must be extremely doubtful.

The resources to pay for such investments are national assets, irrespective of whether they are made in the public or private sector: indeed, as taxation policies in the North Sea confirm, whether or not wealth remains in the private sector depends only on the whim and perceived revenue needs of central government.

Investments amounting to billions of pounds invariably involve Governments in one way or another and it is fatuous to suggest that projects which can be funded without affecting the PSBR should be regarded more favourably than those that cannot.

To a certain extent, PSBR reflects the consequences of past uneconomic Concorde-like projects in both the public and private sectors. Assessing major investments honestly on a national basis (disregarding the effects of subsidies and taxes) should be mandatory and would reduce the "white elephant" population. Goodbye Channel tunnel/bridge!

L. A. Johnson.
"Green Tiles," Mill Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks.

Barriers to mobility
From Mr F. Law.
Sir,—I would like to congratulate British Rail and its Chairman, Sir Peter Parker, on the launch of their rail card for the disabled, and one must endorse his views that all transport systems should try to remove the barriers to mobility.

This particularly applies to the airlines, who seem to be reluctant to make air travel more popular. Most rail, bus and underground services in England and certain countries of continental Europe have introduced special concessions for senior citizens.

I would have thought this makes a lot of sense. After all, here is a market of people with more leisure, but usually less income.

F. S. Law.
61 Cadogan Square, SW1.

Highly paid executives
From Mr C. Dillaway.
Sir,—Your correspondents and others who comment on high salaries paid to some captains of industry may well be right but they quite miss the point. Two or three levels down in a company's hierarchy there are numbers of younger active working managers who can really affect company performance. They work at a level where they probably have a

nodding acquaintance with some of those at the lowest working levels of all. It is they who are separated from their families by trips overseas, who receive the 2.00 am phone calls and take work home by the briefcase.

These managers are, like most of us, more inspired by what the future holds than their current remuneration. So paying a chief executive chairman £100,000 a year more and obtaining £5,000 worth of extra effort from a hundred lower paid managers is an extremely good buy. The difficulty is that once explained at the annual meeting the steam goes out of the idea and the money is asked.

Ask those who don't believe in the incentive of expectations how much they stake on the pools each week and what they dream of doing with the money they never win. Notice that nationalised industry chairmen are usually appointed from outside and consequently receive more reasonable salaries as the lower-level incentive effect cannot apply.

It is very well to believe in democratic control of industry but public opinion has an unsuitable way of handling people. C. C. Dillaway.
"Highcroft," Gunhouse Lane, Bonbridge, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Tending the garden
From Mr P. Thurnham.
Sir,—Mr Anthony Harris (September 10) urges the Chancellor to practise good husbandry by eliminating tax allowances.

He lists a corrected total of £16.4bn—but surely, he has missed the biggest allowance (and anomaly generator) of all, namely the arbitrary categories of exempt or zero rated VAT items?

An across-the-board VAT would simplify Customs and Excise administration, and raise an additional £10bn.

Such a sum would be sufficient not only to make a much needed cut in employers' national insurance surcharges (so boosting employment and saving unemployment benefits), but also to introduce negative income tax for those for whom tax sheltered food costs are a necessity, rather than an invitation to gluttony, and neglected vegetable patches!

Peter G. Thurnham.
Sidergorth, Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria.

Physical laws
From the Managing Director, Fulmer Research Institute.
Sir,—It was very gratifying to note in Economic Viewpoint (September 10) that Mr Anthony Harris has realised the relevance of physical laws to fiscal performance. He correctly quoted Newton's First Law, but a rather more suitable law which has relevance to taxation policy is Le Chatelier's Principle. This states that when a constraint is placed upon the system, the system responds so as to minimise the effect of the constraint. Hence, when new taxes are imposed the behaviour of those taxed is changed so as to minimise the effects of the

taxes on them. It has long been my belief that a closer understanding of the way that established physical laws could be applied to the management of our economy would enhance the performance of those responsible for its manipulation.

I hope that Mr Anthony Harris will pursue his educational endeavours in this direction. W. E. Duckworth.
Stoke Poges, Slough, Berks.

Lessons to be learnt
From Mr R. Mannaberg.
Sir,—Schoolboy Jacob Rees-Mogg (September 12) will have a lot to learn before we can allow him to take over Lord Weinstock's job at GEC.

He will have to appreciate that one of the main reasons why British industry is in the deep trouble that it is because of the way that its managers have been paying themselves too high remuneration, and the shareholders too high dividends, thus leaving their companies uncapitalised, on the verge of bankruptcy, and with insufficient, inefficient or outmoded plant, in many cases to meet the challenge of rising productivity in an ever more competitive climate.

Young Rees-Mogg will also have to realise that, whatever size the reserves that a company is fortunate enough to put into its kitty, it is not just there to replace existing plant, but to buy highly advanced and sophisticated technology, perhaps robots, which in the case of a high technology manufacturer costs many times the present value, not even allowing for the expenses of research and development.

The true purchasing power of those reserves will be considerably less after inflation has taken its devastating toll, by the time the investment has to be made, so somebody has to do a bit of clever crystal gazing to suggest what that might be when that moment has arrived.

In any case, as Jacob grows up, he will find that his sight must be set on companies that pay him a more modest dividend, but that gain from steadily raising their intrinsic value, showing a prudent reserve policy, and give him good capital appreciation instead.

Perhaps, hopefully, that was the reason young Jacob's was the only visible vote of dissent.

Kurt Mannaberg.
Flat 10, Leathorne Court, St Andrew's Road, Earlsdon, Coventry.

As old as the hills
From Mr W. Grey.
Sir,—Without clear monetary figures to guide them, you concluded your analysis (September 12) of the "new dilemma" facing them, "Ministers will have no choice but to rely on their instincts more than ever." But ought they to do so? And is their dilemma in fact a new one?

The answer surely is that the dilemma presented by different policy objectives, whether they are the fight against inflation, against unemployment, against a balance-of-payments deficit or surplus or whatever, is as old as the hills. So is the choice

of different means to resolve it. To that extent, today's dilemma is no different from yesterday's; indeed, the one is the direct product of the other.

The dilemma now facing the Government with regard to sterling arises only because its management of the same dilemma earlier on had been unduly benign. Had sterling not been allowed to rise to the extent it did then, its recent fall would, of course, be causing no problem since, like its preceding rise, it would not have happened. And if that rise had not happened, then the agony it has caused (and is still causing) would, of course, not have happened either.

The conclusion is, or should be, perfectly obvious. In its management of the economy the Government, far from relying on instinct or allowing itself to be blinded by preoccupations with this or that meaningless figure (not to say fetish), should follow the simple rule of always leaning against the wind, and then the agony it has caused (and is still causing) would, of course, not have happened either.

This is, of course, the principle underlying the European monetary system, joining which sooner could therefore have spared us a lot of trouble. Happily, it is never too late to repent. Let the Government therefore throw timidity and misguided instinct to the wind and follow this lodestar without further delay. Nothing could more quickly release us from the straitjacket of our own making.

W. Grey.
12, Arden Road, Finchley, N3.

Home video market
From Mr N. Hepburn.
Sir,—We are given to understand from normally accurate sources of prediction that sales of home video equipment this year will approximate 800,000, next year 1.2m and possibly up to 5m to 1985/86. We have even read that by the end of the 1980s more than half the homes in Britain will own or rent home video equipment.

Doing some personal research recently with a view to acquiring some video equipment, we have been advised that of the fifteen or so different models available, all but two are manufactured in Japan and the remaining two are manufactured in Austria and Germany respectively. None is manufactured in Britain. Why?

N. W. Hepburn.
20 Arley Road, Solihull, West Midlands.

Plucked and emaciated
From Mr W. Heyman.
Sir,—For years now Chancellors of the Exchequer have plucked the maximum amount of feathers to achieve the minimum amount of squealing. Feather plucking can cause emaciation, some birds become "lame ducks".

Government policy on oil company taxation, and banks' windfall profit, should be tempered by the old saying from Strabourg "you cannot get fairs and eggs from the same duck".

W. Heyman.
The Manor House, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.

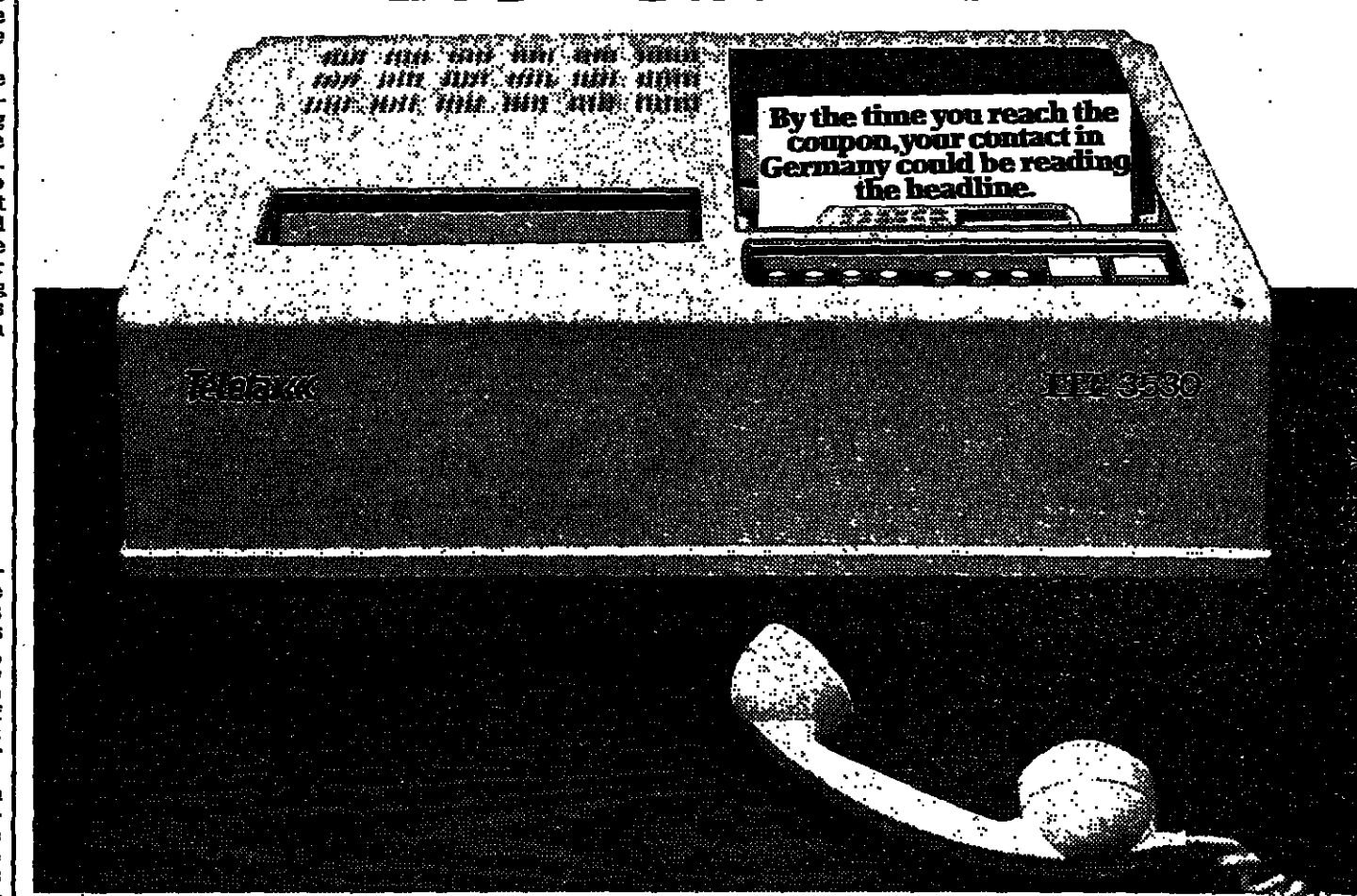
Today's Events

GENERAL
UK: Mr Michael Foot, Opposition leader, and Mr Denis Healey, deputy leader, leave with Labour MPs delegation for visit to Soviet Union.
Liberal Party conference opens, Llandudno (to September 18)—debate on draft programme "Foundation for the future" fringe meeting with Social Democratic Party leaders Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Roy Jenkins.
Confederation of British Industries statement on public spending.
Sir Kenneth Corfield, STC chairman, speaks at opening of Institution of Mechanical Engineers two-day conference on education of tomorrow's engineering designers, Robinson College, Cambridge.
CBI conference on introducing single status employment—what's the difference? at Centre Point.
Offshore Europe 81 exhibition and conference opens, Aberdeen, (to September 18).
International Plastics Exhibition opens, NEC, Birmingham (to September 22).
Town Hall (to September 26).
Henley Centre for Forecasting conference Revitalise your

market thinking, at London Press Centre.
Overseas: European Parliament debates unemployment, Strasbourg.
OFFICIAL STATISTICS
Central Statistical Office publishes July provisional index of industrial production.
COMPANY MEETINGS
Associated British Engineering, 7 West George Street, Glasgow, 12.00.
British Land, Mayford Hotel, Berkeley Street, W, 12.00.
Bromsgrove Castings and Machining, Perry Hall Hotel, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, 12.00.
Group Investors, 2 St Mary Axe, EC, 12.30.
NCC Energy, Savoy Hotel, Strand, WC, 12.00.
J. W. Spear, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC, 12.00.

COMPANY RESULTS
Financial dividends: Consolidated Gold Fields, Fletcher Challenge, Samuel Heath and Sons. London Merchant Securities. Ricardo Consulting Engineers. Interim dividends: Barrow Hepburn Group, Barton Group, British Aerospace, Horace Cory, Croda International, Expanded Metal, Bernard Matthews, George Spencer, Travis and Arnold, Willis Faber. Interim figures: Hestair, RCA Drilling Group.

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Besides being a lot less expensive to rent or buy than any other Group 3 machine. The 3530 Mercury is the latest model in the range from ITT, the market leader in facsimile, and Europe's largest telecommunications company. If you'd like to see how the Mercury can benefit your business, there will be two special

demonstration days on September 21st and 22nd at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London W1.

Just send the coupon for our brochure and your invitation. Which is what your contact in Germany could be doing in less than sixty seconds.

Ring 01-440 4141 and ask for the Telefax Sales Department or write to Keith Goodman, ITT Business Systems, Diversey House, Cockfosters Road, Cockfosters, Herts EN4 8JL. Telex 25823.

Please send me an invitation to the ITT 3530 Telefax launch at the Intercontinental Hotel, London W1, on 21 September □ 22 September □ or I can't attend the exhibition, please send me a brochure □

Name _____
Title _____
Company _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

ITT Business Systems ITT

Companies and Markets

UK COMPANY NEWS

Midway setback for Low & Bonar

ASLUM P in profits in its UK/Europe division and to a lesser extent in North America has hit the first half figures of Low & Bonar. But a "substantial improvement" is expected in the second half and with this in mind the directors are maintaining the interim dividend at 5p.

Sales of the group, which is engaged in packaging, engineering, textiles and travel, rose from £73.5m to £73.7m. On the profit side, however, UK/Europe fell from £1.62m to £1.27m and North America from £1.05m to £0.97m, and interest and changes were up to £320,000 (£73,000). This led to an overall pre-tax profit of £1.7m, compared with £3.9m in the corresponding half year ended May 31, 1980.

The interim dividend will be payable on November 23 and loan stockholders exercising their conversion rights on November 1 will be able to participate. Earnings for the half year were 2.18p (2.11p) and fully diluted 2.13p (2.11p). For the full year ended November 30, 1980 group profit before tax came to £7.64m, from which a total dividend of 14.5p was paid.

In their report accompanying the half year, the directors state that all the manufacturing companies within UK/Europe were severely affected by the recession and all returned lower earnings.

The mechanical engineering companies were the hardest hit and in the case of Bonar Langley Alloys and Bonar High Smith aggregate losses of some £850,000 were incurred. Action has been taken, and will continue to be taken, to achieve the early elimination of these losses and to improve the future profit performance of the UK/Europe region.

To date two textile companies, G and J. Johnston (Wemyss) and Wemyss Weavercraft, have been sold while the polypropylene extrusion and weaving units of Bonar Textiles have been reorganised.

In the packaging division two merchanting businesses have been sold and negotiations begun for the disposal of the remaining merchanting businesses. In addition, James Nichols and Son, a paper bag manufacturing company, has been sold and production transferred to Bonar Bibby and Baron at Bury.

Gold mine dividends please the market

A NOTEWORTHY feature of the reports on the June quarter from the South African gold producers was the way in which the weakness of the rand in terms of the U.S. dollar cushioned the mines against the worst effects of the lower gold price.

When this was allied to stringent control of the rate of increase in working costs, as with the mines in the Gencor group, the outcome was generally higher net profits, and this has been reflected in the latest dividend payments from the mines.

With an eye to the lower gold price, the market had scaled down its expectations from the mines, and was thus pleasantly surprised by the announcement of payments well up to the most optimistic forecasts.

Winkellbank's final of 190 cents (110p) was above best expectations, as were the 96 cents from Klerks and the 25 cents from Lesite, both also final.

The payments are compared in the accompanying table.

The Barlow Rand group's Harmony also topped all forecasts with an interim payment of 120 cents.

RMP holders urged to accept TCL

WITH THE fortunes of Rand Mines Properties (RMP) now clearly linked to the gold price and the property market in South Africa, shareholders would be well advised to accept the offer from Transvaal Consolidated Land (TCL), according to Mr Tony Petersen, TCL's chairman.

TCL is the 58.8 per cent owned mining arm of South Africa's Barlow Rand group, while RMP is owned as to 60.1 per cent by the same group. The TCL offer is either a straight one for seven share exchange, or one for eight plus 105 cents (61p) in cash.

At yesterday's prices of £26 for TCL and 365p for RMP, the bid values the whole of the latter at around £45m.

Mr Petersen said that by accepting the offer RMP holders could share in a variety of gold mining ventures, including the RMP dump retreatment programme, as well as the steadily rising profits from coal mining.

Coal mining profits are likely to rise, he added, as TCL is in line for further export allocations and new contracts with the state electricity authority Eskom.

OFFER FOR RENONG TIN

HONG KONG'S Sparstream Investments has offered a price of \$51.70 for each of the shares in Renong Tin Dredging it does not already own, valuing Renong at a total of \$822m (£5.6m).

Sparstream is the company which earlier this month bought a 40.9 per cent stake in Renong from Straits Trading Company for \$99.38m.

Renong is an investment holding company with no remaining tin mining operations. In the year to June 30 1980, the last for which figures are available, the company made a net profit of \$287,140 and paid dividends totalling \$p.

MINING NEWS

Amax delays public float of Australian interests

BY GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

THE RECENT weakness of the Australian share market, especially in the natural resource stocks, is one of the major factors behind the decision by Amax of the U.S. to defer the public floatation of a controlling interest in its Australian operations.

Mr Stanley Dempsey, chairman of the wholly-owned Amax Australian Ventures, said yesterday that the float would be postponed until "at least early 1982".

He added that the decision reflected the general difficulties facing mining companies and the low level of world economic activity, in addition to the depressed state of the stock market.

Earlier this year, Mr Dempsey announced that he would lodge a prospectus for the formation of a new company with the Australian Corporate Affairs

Commission in mid-September. The new company, with 51 per cent Australian ownership, was expected to be in existence before the end of the year.

Amax has not released any details of its plans for the float, but it is widely expected to involve a two-stage call for a total of about A\$500m (£315m). There must be some doubt as to the Australian market's enthusiasm for putting up such a sum in present conditions.

The company's principal operation in Australia is a 25 per cent stake in the Mount Newman iron ore joint venture in Western Australia's Pilbara region, one of the biggest iron ore mining operations in the world.

In addition, the company has interests in coal, at Boggabul in New South Wales where it is in partnership with BHP, and at

Milmerra in Queensland, in a joint venture with Mitsui of Japan.

Beyond that, Amax is involved in several exploration projects, notably for oil and gas in Western Australia and elsewhere, and at the Golden Grove copper-zinc deposit, also in Western Australia.

In London this spring, Mr Arthur Reef, a senior vice president of Amax, said that the new company could become one of the leading natural resource concerns in Australia, with a market capitalisation "between A\$600m and A\$800m."

Amax regards Australia as a marvellous opportunity for investment, and Mr Reef added that the new company might be in a position to make up for the investment opportunities missed by Amax in the past 10 years.

BP may buy into Brazilian tin

TALKS CURRENTLY under way between BP and Brascan could lead to the British oil company combining with the Canadian natural resources group to develop tin deposits in Brazil.

The oil company is discussing the possibility of taking a 50 per cent stake in Brascan Recursos Naturals (BRN), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brascan, reports Andrew Whitley in Rio de Janeiro.

BP confirmed in London yesterday that talks were going on, but was not prepared to give any indication as to the likely price for such a deal or the time-scale.

Brascan bought Cesbra, the company which now constitutes a major part of BRN, for some U.S.\$33.5m (£18m) last year, and it was then merged with two smaller Brascan tin mining subsidiaries to form BRN. The total

capitalisation of the three companies is cruzeros 1.87bn (£10m).

Like many other multinationals, especially the major oil companies, BP has been taking an increasing interest in Brazilian minerals in recent years. However, BP is still lagging behind Shell in mineral exploitation and processing in the country. Shell has major aluminium operations, with plans to expand.

BRN ranks as Brazil's second biggest tin producer, with about 25 per cent of output. The company's mines at Rondonia, in the north-west corner of the country, produce between 2,000 and 2,500 tonnes a year.

Rondonia's reserves of cassiterite (tin ore) are estimated at about 150,000 tonnes. More important for the future, however, could be the unexploited

tin deposits of the Carajas region in the Amazon. BRN is also the largest shareholder in Brazil's biggest tin smelter at Volta Redonda, in Rio de Janeiro state. The smelter is capable of producing 7,000 tonnes a year, 40 per cent of the Brazilian total. It is currently working below capacity.

In a separate development, Brazil is reported from Tokyo to have made a formal request for Japanese loans amounting to \$900m (£275m).

The Japanese Government has apparently shown a positive attitude to the request, but is waiting for the publication of a feasibility study by the World Bank, due later this month.

The project is now expected to cost more than \$5bn, and Brazil is seeking outside finance for 80 per cent of this.



BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS IN CANADA

In accordance with the new banking legislation recently passed by the Canadian Parliament, a Federal Charter has been granted to eleven foreign banks which will thus be allowed to offer complete banking services comparable to those of the large Canadian commercial banks.

BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS (Canada), a subsidiary of the BNP Group, is the only French bank on this list of new chartered banks. The Canadian government acknowledges thereby the leading role played by BNP Canada in the foreign banking community, which will certainly expand in this country.

It must be remembered that BNP was one of the first foreign banks to show interest in Canada, having established in Montreal, as early as 1961, the Head Office of its subsidiary (a financial institution with a provincial charter). Since then BNP has extended its network to Quebec, Toronto (Ontario), Vancouver (British Columbia), Edmonton and Calgary (Alberta). Moreover, it will soon be opening in Halifax (Nova Scotia).

Next December BNP Canada will inaugurate in Montreal the "BNP TOWER" which will house its Head Office.



C. D. Bramall

MAIN DEALERS

★ Half year pre-tax profit exceeds £1 million

★ Satisfactory result expected for full year

"New vehicle sales for August were a record in any one month but there is no sign of an improvement in the underlying trend of order intake, particularly in commercial vehicle sales. "With spread of activities I am confident Group will produce satisfactory results for the full year."

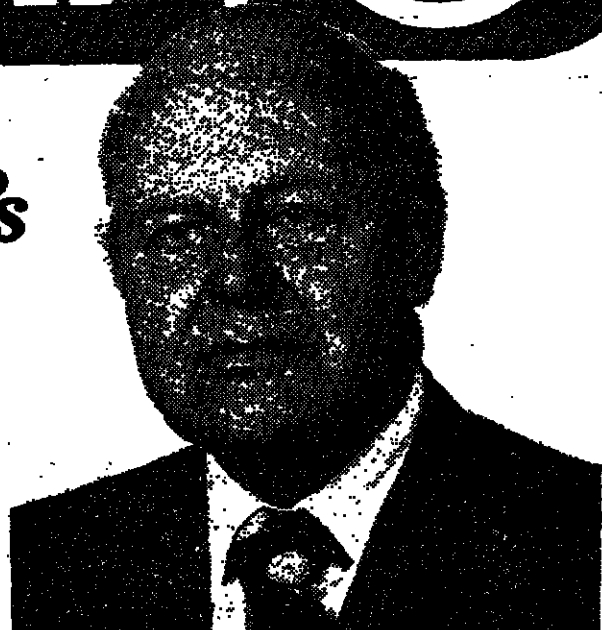
Tony Bramall, Chairman

Interim Results (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30.6.81	Six months ended 30.6.80	Year ended 31.12.80
Turnover	£22,561	£16,522	£30,815
Profit before tax	1,047	918	1,673
Profit after tax	595	882	1,287
Dividend per share, net	2.05p	2.05p	5.55p

Interim report available from:
The Secretary, C. D. Bramall Ltd.
146/148 Tong Street, Bradford BD4 9PR

DOWTY

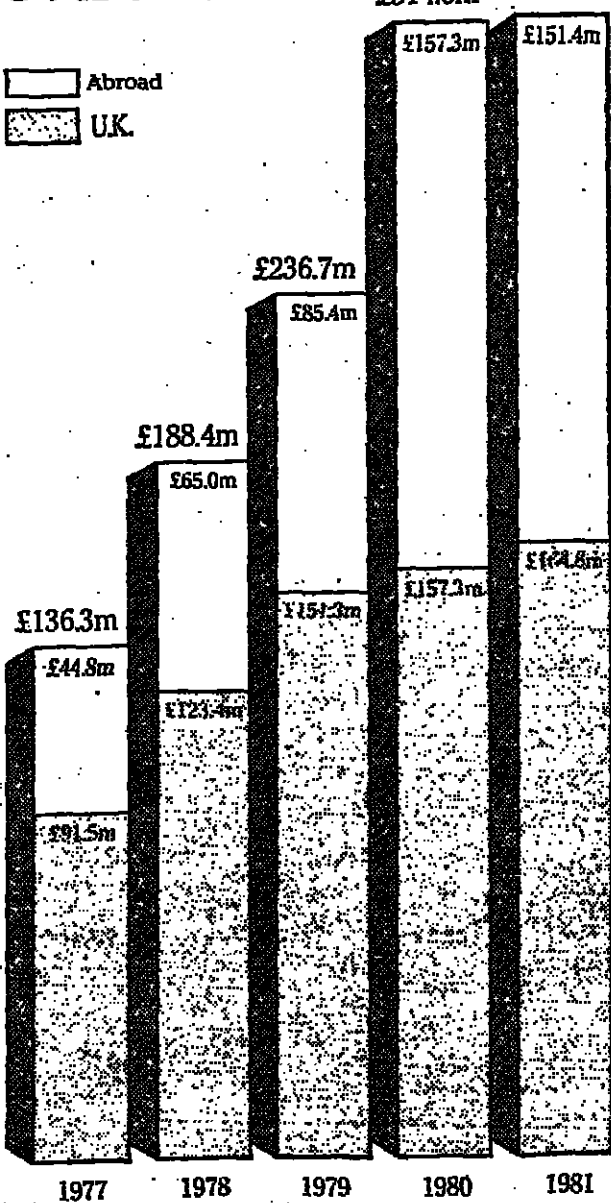
ANNIVERSARY 1931-1981



Sir Robert Hunt, C.B.E.,
Chairman and Chief Executive

"The diversity of our Group's high technology products, particularly overseas, has insulated us from the worst effects of recession."

Dowty's Export-led Growth Over 5 Years



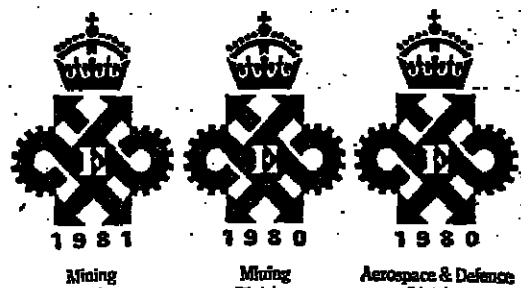
Under the prevailing circumstances the Group's performance may be considered satisfactory. The previous year's major gain in turnover was held.

The total dividend is increased to 5p and a one-for-two scrip issue is proposed.

We expect to improve our position during the current year. Aerospace & Defence has excellent prospects long term. Electronics maintains steady progress and Mining export orders are at a healthy level, particularly in the US. There are positive signs of the beginnings of an upturn in demand for our Industrial products.

Results in Brief

	1980/81	1979/80
Turnover	£316.2m	£314.6m
Profit before tax	£36.2m	£37.9m
Earnings per share	20.4p	25.7p
Dividends per share	5.0p	4.5p
Times covered by profit after tax	4.1	5.7



Copies of the 1980/81 Chairman's Statement with the Report and Accounts available from:
The Secretary, Dowty Group,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The Annual General Meeting will be at the registered office, Arle Court, Cheltenham, on Thursday, 1st October at 11.00 a.m.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	12 1/2 %	Grindlays Bank	12 1/2 %
Allied Irish Bank	12 1/2 %	Guinness Mahon	12 1/2 %
American Express Bk.	12 1/2 %	Hambros Bank	12 1/2 %
Amro Bank	12 1/2 %	Heritable & Gen. Trust	12 1/2 %
Henry Ansbacher	12 1/2 %	Hill Samuel	12 1/2 %
Arbuthnot Latham	12 1/2 %	C. Hoare & Co.	12 1/2 %
Associates Cay. Corp.	12 1/2 %	Hongkong & Shanghai	12 1/2 %
Banco de Bilbao	12 1/2 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	12 1/2 %
BCCI	12 1/2 %	Laurens Trust Ltd.	12 1/2 %
Bank of Cyprus	12 1/2 %	Lloyds Bank	12 1/2 %
Bank of E.S.W.	12 1/2 %	Mallinball Limited	12 1/2 %
Bank of India	12 1/2 %	Edward Manson & Co.	12 1/2 %
Banque Belge Ltd.	12 1/2 %	Midland Bank	12 1/2 %
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	12 1/2 %	Samuel Montagu	12 1/2 %
Barclays Bank	12 1/2 %	Morgan Grenfell	12 1/2 %
Beneficiis Trust Ltd.	12 1/2 %	National Westminster	12 1/2 %
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	12 1/2 %	Norwich General Trust	12 1/2 %
Bristol & West Invests.	12 1/2 %	P. S. Retsford & Co.	12 1/2 %
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12 1/2 %	Slavenburg's Bank	12 1/2 %
Brown Shipley	12 1/2 %	S. S. Schwab	12 1/2 %
Canada Perant Trust	12 1/2 %	Standard Chartered	12 1/2 %
Cayzer Ltd.	12 1/2 %	Trade Dev. Bank	12 1/2 %
Char. Holdings	12 1/2 %	Trustee Savings Bank	12 1/2 %
Charterhouse Japhet	12 1/2 %	TCB Ltd.	12 1/2 %
Citicorp	12 1/2 %	United Bank of Kuwait	12 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	12 1/2 %	Whiteway Laidlaw	12 1/2 %
Citydesdale Bank	12 1/2 %	Williams & Glyn's	12 1/2 %
C. S. Costes	12 1/2 %	Witnurst Secs. Ltd.	12 1/2 %
Consolidated Credits	12 1/2 %	Yokohama Bank	12 1/2 %
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2 %		
Corinthian Secs.	12 1/2 %		
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	12 1/2 %		
Duncan Lawrie	12 1/2 %		
Eagle Trust Limited	12 1/2 %		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	15 1/2 %		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	15 1/2 %		
Robert Fraser	12 1/2 %		
Antony Gibbs	12 1/2 %		

UK COMPANY NEWS

COWAN, de GROOT LIMITED

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement for the year ended 30th April 1981

Trading conditions are the worst we have experienced in post-war times.

Whilst the level of last year's turnover has almost been maintained, operating costs, many of which cannot be trimmed in the short term, have continued to rise.

We maintained the dividend of 3.5p per share. The net pre-tax profit was £927,000 compared with £2.57m. Turnover was £42.0m against £44.1m last year. Net assets remain unchanged at 73.3p per share.

Our finances remain sound. Trading conditions are still far from easy, but we are continuing to make every effort to improve profitability. The recession sets problems not previously encountered, but we remain optimistic about the longer term future. Certainly when there is an upturn in the economy, we will be well placed to take full advantage of it and fully intend to do so.

Derrick Cowan, Chairman.



FOUR DIVISIONS - TOYS AND SOFTWARE PRODUCERS - ELECTRICAL AND HARDWARE WHOLESALES - MACHINERY IMPORTERS - RUSSIAN SHOP.

COWAN, de GROOT LIMITED, 11 JOHN STREET, LONDON WC1N 2EG.

Keppel Shipyard Limited

U.S.\$25,000,000
9 per cent Bonds 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all bondholders of the above-captioned issue that:

For the purchase year ended 18th August 1981, the aggregate principal amount of Bonds arising from purchases made pursuant to Clause 5(c) of the Conditions of the Bonds and from acceptance of Bonds surrendered pursuant to the Purchase Agency Agreement is U.S.\$961,000.

THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SINGAPORE LIMITED
15th September 1981

NOTICE - SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF SANDVIK AKTIEBOLAG, Sweden

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that copies of the Semi-Annual Report of Sandvik Aktiebolag covering the first half of the 1981 activities will be available - from September 15th - at the office of Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd, 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ.

The Board of Directors

SANDVIK

COMPANY NOTICES

CANON INC.

NOTICE OF CONVOCAION

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

ADVANCE has been received from Tokyo that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of Canon Inc. will be held at its Head Office, 3-30-1, Shimo-Ogino 2-chome, Tokyo 144, at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 1981.

The proposal to be considered at the meeting is the proposed merger of the outstanding shares of Canon Inc. and the shares of Canon Inc. (USA) Inc. into a new company, Canon Inc. (USA) Inc.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSITION
Approval of the merger agreement between Canon Inc. and Canon Inc. (USA) Inc.

This is to seek your approval of the following merger agreement between Canon Inc. and Canon Inc. (USA) Inc.

APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT
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Companies and Markets

Illingworth predicts profit and return to dividend list

A FORECAST of £1.2m pre-tax profit and return to the dividend list for 1981-82 is given by Illingworth Morris, the Yorkshire wool textile group, in a circular to shareholders calling for support for the group's two UK executives threatened with dismissal.

Mrs Pamela Mason, the group's largest shareholder with control over 46 per cent of the votes, has called a special shareholders' meeting for October 1 to remove Mr Donald Hanson, the executive chairman, and Mr Peter Hardy, joint-chief executive, from the board.

Immediately following this meeting the UK directors are to put their own two resolutions calling for the removal from the board of Mrs Mason and her son Morgan.

In their circular the directors say that as a result of the "modestly improving trading environment, coupled with the benefit of our reorganisation in the profits in the first quarter of the current year amount to some £277,000."

They say that it is early in the year to make a forecast and that, at the present level of activity, small fluctuations, particularly in sales, can have an exaggerated effect on profits.

However, subject to unforeseen circumstances and provided that Mrs Mason's proposals are defeated and no further disruption to the management and operations of the company are caused by her, the directors expect profits to be of the order of £1.2m before tax compared with a loss of £2.4m in 1980-81. On this basis a dividend of 1p net is forecast.

In a letter Mr Hanson says that "during their time on the board" neither Mrs Mason nor her son have contributed positively to any significant aspect of the running of the company.

Mr Hanson says that Mrs Mason and her son are "unsuitable as directors of the company." Mr Hanson points out that the UK directors have the support of all the operating unit managing directors and the major trade unions involved as well as the company's bankers.

Mr Hanson says that "certain relations of Mrs Mason, who have an interest in the shares she presently controls, are so opposed to the way she is using that control that they are taking legal action to restrain her," he says.

At the beginning of September

the group's advisers, Hill Samuel and Co. made an offer for the shares under Mrs Mason's control. These would have been subsequently placed with a number of major UK institutions. However, Mrs Mason has not accepted the offer which has now been withdrawn.

The directors say that since her appointment Mrs Mason's involvement with the company has been intermittent, attending few board meetings. They also consider her suggested solutions to the group's problems "short sighted and short term."

The directors refer to the promotion by Mrs Mason of the manufacture of carpets in Nevada and the acquisition of a company engaged in contract knitting in Pennsylvania—both areas which the group had no experience in.

They say that Mrs Mason's "unpredictability has made the task of managing the business difficult. Overall, she has acted as if she were the sole owner of the company and has confused her responsibilities as a director with her rights as a stockholder."

Mr Morgan Mason the circular comments: "As a director he has contributed little to the prosperity of the company and his commitment to it has fallen far short of what could reasonably be expected, even from a non-executive director."

At least one insurance company and a pension fund with a small holding voted against, together with between 60 and 80 other shareholders according to each poll. Total votes against, however, did not amount to more than 7 per cent of shares.

No questions were asked of the independent directors, headed by Mr Howard Guinness, who was in the chair at the 11-hour meeting.

HOLDING FINANCIER
Holding Financier Ltd. S.A. has completed the purchase of HF by a group of institutions and investors led by Mr Guy Naggar and Mr H. E. Magnien.

HF's subsidiaries include Banque Keyser Ullmann en Suisse SA in Geneva and Banque Keyser Ullmann in Paris.

As previously announced, RIT Group has bought a 35 per cent holding and First City Financial Corporation has bought 10 per cent.

HF has in turn bought Dawney Day and Company, a London based deposit taking institution.

Mr G. A. Naggar has been appointed chairman of Dawney Day and Company.

Mr R. Brown and Mr G. Lawson have become non-executive directors.

DURAPIPE EGM
ADJOURNED
Durapipe International announced that the EGM convened for yesterday was adjourned.

SHARE STAKES
Weir Group—On September 4 Dr G. A. Weir sold 200,000 Ordinary, he now holds 54,550 Ordinary shares and 626,000 ordinary non-voting shares.

Rowton Hotels—Gresham House Estate Company with subsidiary Security Change are interested in 608,000 ordinary shares (16,007 per cent).

London Sumatra Plantations—Harrisons and Crossfield is now interested in a further 112,663 shares, giving a total interest as at September 16 1981 of 15,616,361 shares (93.02 per cent).

Glasgow Pavilion—Rill Woolgar and Co. on September 3 acquired a holding of 110,441 ordinary shares (9.135 per cent).

Aberdeen Trust—Airways Pension Fund Trustees has acquired 568,750 shares making holding 2,772,967 shares (8.31 per cent).

IN BRIEF
M.L. HOLDINGS (manufacturing engineer)—Results for year ended August 31 1981 and prospects reported August 26. August 1981: £8m (£4.81m); current assets £12.3m (£10.81m); net assets £12.3m (£10.81m); including stock and work in progress £5.3m (£4.81m); net current assets £5.67m (£3.77m); increase in assets £1.1m (£0.96m); £100,000 (£100,000); Historical pre-tax profit £1,140 (£1,034); reduced to £902,735 on CCA basis. Contracts received both from British Aerospace for company's weapon carriage and release equipment for Jaguars are very substantial. £240,000 (£240,000) for Liverpool Street, EC, October 2, noon.

CITY OF LONDON BREWERY and DISTILLERS (brewery and distillery)—Results for year ended August 8. Funds employed £23.7m (£23.7m); investments £23.7m (£23.7m); current assets £23.4m (£23.4m); proposed to change name to the City of London Trust; to remove misleading association with breweries. Meeting: Puddle Dock, EC, October 1, 2.30 p.m.

STEWART NARRIN GROUP (manufacturer and distributor of healthy and nutritious) Results for year to March 31 reported September 4. Shareholders' funds £403,001 (£388,636). Net current assets £119,636 (£127,261). Increase in working capital £16,548 (£42,402). Bank loans and overdrafts (secured) £222,468 (£286,605). Maudslayi, Leicestershire, October 8, 12.15 p.m.

ROSEBUD INVESTMENT TRUST—Interim dividend 3.1p net (3.1p) six months to July 31 1981. Gross revenue £210,748 (£240,201). Net income £122,522 (£145,722). Dividend £122,522 (£145,722). Income Share 3.07p (3.46p). Net asset value per 25p Capital Share 185.9p (£182.1p).

WOLFELOUGH GROUP (investor in manufacturing, property investment and development)—Pre-tax profit for year ended April 30 1981 £1,400,000 (£62,000).—Comprising property development £1,150,000 (£150,000); property rental £250,000 (£150,000); turnover £1,150,000 (£150,000).—Selling 200,000 shares at 25p (£50,000).—Final dividend 2.5p, making 3.5p net (3.5p). Chairman's report for current year will show significant increase in development profit and group growth in rental income.

HIGHCROFT INVESTMENT TRUST—Interim dividend 3.1p net (3.1p) six months to July 31 1981. Gross revenue £210,748 (£240,201). Net income £122,522 (£145,722). Dividend £122,522 (£145,722). Income Share 3.07p (3.46p). Net asset value per 25p Capital Share 185.9p (£182.1p).

FLY V.I.P. FOR LESS, Franchise service, the long-haul service will be shared, those who have been awarded the franchise will be awarded the franchise.

TRAVEL
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Harris & Sheldon buy out approved

The complex buy out of Harris and Sheldon by Otis Elevators and the management of H and S should be complete by the end of October.

Yesterday the scheme of arrangements won shareholders' approval after several polls at a special meeting, and the Office of Fair Trading said last night it would not refer the Otis aspect to the Monopolies Commission.

There had been considerable dissatisfaction expressed by shareholders last week at the terms of the management buy out of the non-lift businesses (Otis is taking over the lift side), because shareholders were not offered an opportunity to participate in the new company.

However, following meetings between institutional shareholders and the independent directors, the institutions said they were satisfied that no alternative to the scheme could be presented.

As a result most of the institutions voted in favour of the resolutions yesterday, and each of the three polls showed more than 90 per cent in favour.

At least one insurance company and a pension fund with a small holding voted against, together with between 60 and 80 other shareholders according to each poll. Total votes against, however, did not amount to more than 7 per cent of shares.

No questions were asked of the independent directors, headed by Mr Howard Guinness, who was in the chair at the 11-hour meeting.

HOLDING FINANCIER
Holding Financier Ltd. S.A. has completed the purchase of HF by a group of institutions and investors led by Mr Guy Naggar and Mr H. E. Magnien.

HF's subsidiaries include Banque Keyser Ullmann en Suisse SA in Geneva and Banque Keyser Ullmann in Paris.

As previously announced, RIT Group has bought a 35 per cent holding and First City Financial Corporation has bought 10 per cent.

HF has in turn bought Dawney Day and Company, a London based deposit taking institution.

Mr G. A. Naggar has been appointed chairman of Dawney Day and Company.

Mr R. Brown and Mr G. Lawson have become non-executive directors.

DURAPIPE EGM
ADJOURNED
Durapipe International announced that the EGM convened for yesterday was adjourned.

SHARE STAKES
Weir Group—On September 4 Dr G. A. Weir sold 200,000 Ordinary, he now holds 54,550 Ordinary shares and 626,000 ordinary non-voting shares.

Rowton Hotels—Gresham House Estate Company with subsidiary Security Change are interested in 608,000 ordinary shares (16,007 per cent).

London Sumatra Plantations—Harrisons and Crossfield is now interested in a further 112,663 shares, giving a total interest as at September 16 1981 of 15,616,361 shares (93.02 per cent).

Glasgow Pavilion—Rill Woolgar and Co. on September 3 acquired a holding of 110,441 ordinary shares (9.135 per cent).

Aberdeen Trust—Airways Pension Fund Trustees has acquired 568,750 shares making holding 2,772,967 shares (8.31 per cent).

IN BRIEF
M.L. HOLDINGS (manufacturing engineer)—Results for year ended August 31 1981 and prospects reported August 26. August 1981: £8m (£4.81m); current assets £12.3m (£10.81m); net assets £12.3m (£10.81m); including stock and work in progress £5.3m (£4.81m); net current assets £5.67m (£3.77m); increase in assets £1.1m (£0.96m); £100,000 (£100,000); Historical pre-tax profit £1,140 (£1,034); reduced to £902,735 on CCA basis. Contracts received both from British Aerospace for company's weapon carriage and release equipment for Jaguars are very substantial. £240,000 (£240,000) for Liverpool Street, EC, October 2, noon.

CITY OF LONDON BREWERY and DISTILLERS (brewery and distillery)—Results for year ended August 8. Funds employed £23.7m (£23.7m); investments £23.7m (£23.7m); current assets £23.4m (£23.4m); proposed to change name to the City of London Trust; to remove misleading association with breweries. Meeting: Puddle Dock, EC, October 1, 2.30 p.m.

STEWART NARRIN GROUP (manufacturer and distributor of healthy and nutritious) Results for year to March 31 reported September 4. Shareholders' funds £403,001 (£388,636). Net current assets £119,636 (£127,261). Increase in working capital £16,548 (£42,402). Bank loans and overdrafts (secured) £222,468 (£286,605). Maudslayi, Leicestershire, October 8, 12.15 p.m.

ROSEBUD INVESTMENT TRUST—Interim dividend 3.1p net (3.1p) six months to July 31 1981. Gross revenue £210,748 (£240,201). Net income £122,522 (£145,722). Dividend £122,522 (£145,722). Income Share 3.07p (3.46p). Net asset value per 25p Capital Share 185.9p (£182.1p).

WOLFELOUGH GROUP (investor in manufacturing, property investment and development)—Pre-tax profit for year ended April 30 1981 £1,400,000 (£62,000).—Comprising property development £1,150,000 (£150,000); property rental £250,000 (£150,000); turnover £1,150,000 (£150,000).—Selling 200,000 shares at 25p (£50,000).—Final dividend 2.5p, making 3.5p net (3.5p). Chairman's report for current year will show significant increase in development profit and group growth in rental income.

HIGHCROFT INVESTMENT TRUST—Interim dividend 3.1p net (3.1p) six months to July 31 1981. Gross revenue £210,748 (£240,201). Net income £122,522 (£145,722). Dividend £122,522 (£145,722). Income Share 3.07p (3.46p). Net asset value per 25p Capital Share 185.9p (£182.1p).

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Companies and Markets

UK COMPANY NEWS

Amey Roadstone profits down as volumes drop 17%

THE SLUMP in UK construction activity in the year to June 30 1981 exceeded the worst fears of Amey Roadstone Corporation. Although turnover fell by only 11 per cent to £225m, volumes were some 17 per cent lower than in the previous year, and operating profits slipped to £38.2m from £43.8m in 1979-80.

Demand for concrete pipe had already begun to fall in 1979-80, but the more products were than expected. It was not possible to plan a smooth reduction in costs, according to the chief executive Mr Charles Spence, as the group had done well to contain the erosion of margins.

Cost reductions in the year had been achieved by means of plant closures and redundancies. Seventeen per cent of the UK workforce (1,500 people) and 9 per cent of the U.S. (250 employees) had been made redundant. The remainder were on greatly reduced working hours. Central overheads, cut in

Bramall tops £1m but holds interim at 2.05p

BRAMALL, the Bradford-based motor vehicle dealer, advanced from £918,000 to £1.05m for the first half of 1981, a rise of 14 per cent, on turnover £8.04m higher at £22.56m.

Mr. Tony Bramall the chairman says profit margins on new vehicle sales continued to be slim and while new vehicle sales in August were a record for the group in any one month, and have got the current six months off to a good start, there is no sign of any improvement in the underlying trend of order intake — particularly in commercial vehicle sales.

However, he is confident that the spread of group activities will, subject to no major unforeseen circumstances, produce satisfactory results for the year as a whole.

He points out that while all

group dealerships sold marginally fewer new units at lower margins than in the corresponding period, the service, parts and used car business returned satisfactory results. There was also a substantial recovery in contract hire, leasing and hire purchase following the easing of interest rates.

Of the pre-tax profit £770,000 stemmed from the group's main dealerships and the contract hire, leasing and hire purchase activities contributed 37 per cent more at £277,000.

Following changes in legislation affecting first year allowances on new vehicles and stock appreciation relief the directors have deemed it prudent to provide for a more realistic tax charge in respect of the current year and have calculated this item at a rate of 43 per cent for

the half year, compared with a rate of 23 per cent for the 12 months to December 31 1980. As a result tax for the six months rose sharply from £36,000 to £452,000.

The attributable balance emerged at £595,000 (£582,000) out of which interim dividend payments absorbed £56,000 (£33,000), net of dividends amounting to £21,767 waived by the chairman.

Stated earnings per share were lower at 11.3p (17.2p) but the net interim dividend is being maintained at 2.05p per 25p share — for 1980 a total of 5.55p was paid from pre-tax profits marginally down at £1.67m (£1.78m).

Current cost accounting reduces the taxable surplus to £776,000 (£961,000) and on the same basis earnings per share are given as 6.1p (11.1p).

Dixons Photographic counts the disturbance costs of riots

THE URBAN riots during the early part of the summer proved expensive for Dixons Photographic says Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman, in his annual report. He says the group suffered in terms of the disturbance to established shopping patterns and disruption to those retail stores which suffered from damage and looting.

Commenting on the current economic situation, he says it is quite clear that under the present Government policies, the immediate future will remain depressed.

The board's immediate task, therefore, is to keep the company as lean and efficient as possible and to maintain it in a state of readiness to move into top gear at the right moment.

The group has invested

significant sums on electronic data capture equipment and systems, and is continuing to spend heavily on new stores, store improvement, market experimentation and staff training.

He then points out that the pharmaceuticals division is still at the crossroads, with gross profit margins having stabilised at a very low level. It is now concentrated into 11 depots. The division remains only marginally profitable and will require close and continuous monitoring.

PTF, the film processing division, is committed to a heavy capital programme and this will ensure it remains highly competitive. Overseas, the group is busy exploring new markets and developing new products.

Mr Kalms says the strength of the group's financial resources remains impressive. Liquidity

increased by £10m during the year to May 2, 1981, and with net borrowings reduced to virtually nil it has adjusted reserves to take advantage of the inevitable, if delayed, improvement in the economy.

The financial year has got off to a good start overseas, and in the UK, he says, will not be unaffected by the depressed economic climate.

As known, pre-tax profits for the year to May 2 were £10.78m (£10.92m). Fixed assets improved from £23.25m to £24.62m, cash and short-term deposits were £12.97m (£10.41m) and bank loans and overdrafts (unsecured) dropped from £18.68m to £11.33m. Net current assets stood at £36.96m compared with £37.69m, and shareholders' funds were £30.15m (£28.02m).

Meeting, Connaught Rooms, WC, October 15, at noon.

Heavy first half losses made by James Wilkes

A NET taxed loss of £479,203 compared with profits of £188,325, is reported by James Wilkes, the West Midlands manufacturer of business forms and equipment, for the half year to June 30 1981. Turnover plunged from £5.04m to £3.82m.

The loss was after tax down from £62,100 to £52,671, an extraordinary debit of £69,754 (nil) relating to a trading loss of £171,702 of Wilkes Business Forms to the date of its disposal, redundancy costs amounting to £283,223 and a loss of £184,829 on the sale of investments.

At the interim stage, when pre-tax profits were up from £150,906 to £230,425, the chairman announced that Wilkes Business Forms had been sold for £50,000. He said it would give rise to a book loss of £440,000. This subsidiary had incurred a loss of £116,500 in 1980 and mounting losses in the first quarter of 1981 had forced the board to sell.

Turnover for 1981 excludes that of Wilkes Business Forms. At the date of disposal this amounted to £78,334.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p — last year's total was 4.125p.

Tioxide ahead at halfway

A RECOVERY from depressed sales levels helped pre-tax profits from Tioxide Group and subsidiaries to ease up from £5.46m to £6.79m, for the half year to June 30 1981. Last year's full year pre-tax profits were £7.22m. Sales were higher this year at £83.14m, from £88.11m.

Tax represented a high proportion of group profits because of unrelieved UK losses. Tax rose to £4.45m (£3.68m) and post-tax profits were £2.32m (£2.39m). The deduction for minorities was £0.16m (£0.35m) leaving attributable profits at £2.16m (£2.04m). Earnings per share were 6.5p (6.5p).

The Group is held in equal shares by Imperial Chemical Industries and Lea Industries Group.

Sevalco £384,619 in the red

IN 1980 Sevalco slumped to taxable losses of £384,619, against profits of £773,105, on turnover £2.63m higher at £21.94m.

There is to be no dividend payment in respect of the year — in 1979 there was a distribution of £667,946 — and there is again to be no tax charge.

The pre-tax losses were incurred after interest of £946,461 (£694,468) on loans payable within five years and interest of £398,395 (£160,506) on long term loans, depreciation of £663,391 (£639,216), loss on disposal of fixed assets £140,289 (£20,650) and underfunded pension scheme provision £130,000 (nil).

Sevalco is wholly owned by Sevalco (Holdings) which is in turn equally owned by Phillips Petroleum Company UK and Columbian International Chemicals Corporation.

New London Props. fall

Pre-tax profits for New London Properties, whose main activity is property investment, fell from £745,596 to £606,608 for the half year to June 30 1981.

The net interim dividend is the same again at 4p. Tax was lower at £13,000 (£35,324).

The group is wholly-owned subsidiary of the Pearl Assurance Company.

Downturn at Argus Press Holdings

Pre-tax profits of the Argus Press Holdings, printer and publisher, fell from £1.06m to £699,000 in the six months to June 30, 1981. Turnover rose from £20.2m to £24.23m.

Trading profit was down from £1.55m to £1.44m and net interest payable was £743,000 (£469,000). Tax was lower at £267,000 (£305,000), and after minorities unchanged at £5,000 and extraordinary debits this time of £31,000, attributable profits were £405,000 against £563,000.

Stated earnings per 25p share before extraordinary items are 12.91p (17.22p).

All ordinary shares of the company are owned by the British Electric Traction Company.

Gnome holding on to its market share

Gnome Photographic Products is maintaining its market share despite very fierce competition in many instances from imported products enjoying grants, tax advantages and more recently, currency exchange rate benefits to a level which in other circumstances almost amount to dumping, Mrs H. J. Rees, the chairman says in her annual review.

Mrs Rees points out that during the past months the group has produced a number of new products which are all designed to maintain and increase the profitability per unit to safeguard, as far as the company is able, against future rising costs.

She adds that the Elite subsidiary continues to hold its own in a hardening market.

LAIRD RIGHTS

Acceptances have been received in respect of 95.46 per cent of the 15.7m shares of Laird Group offered in a rights issue. The balance has been sold in the market and the net proceeds amount to approximately 19.83p per new share.

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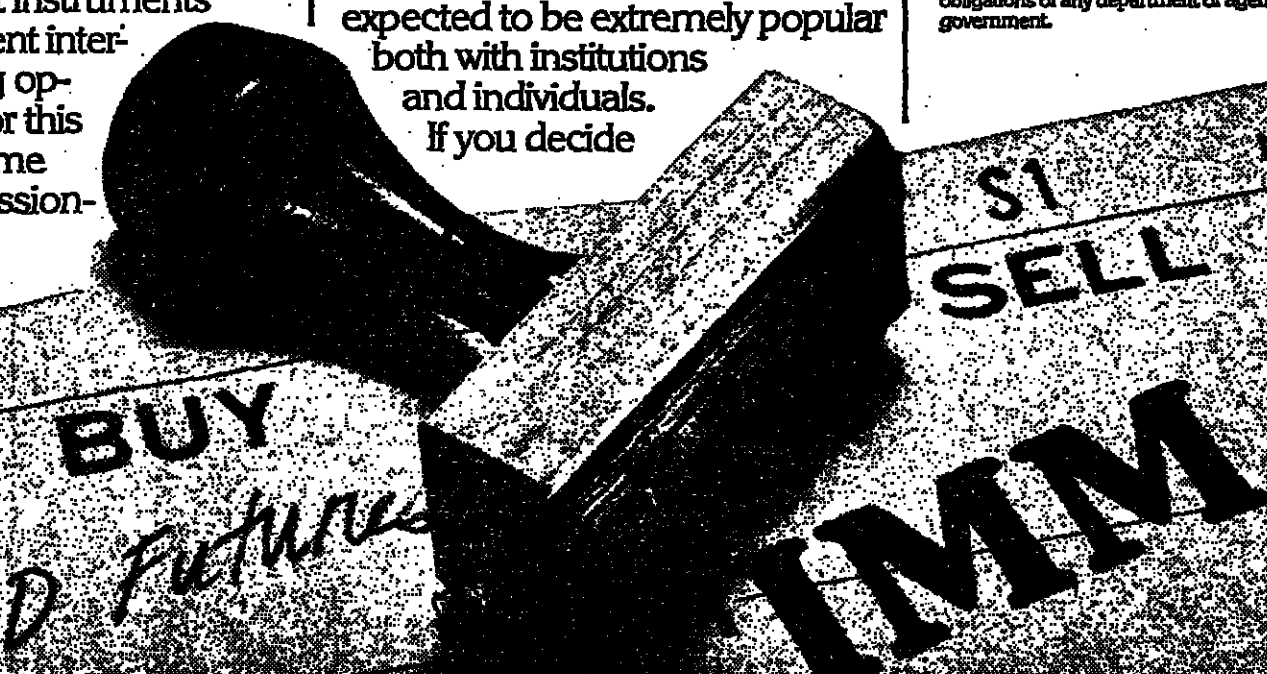
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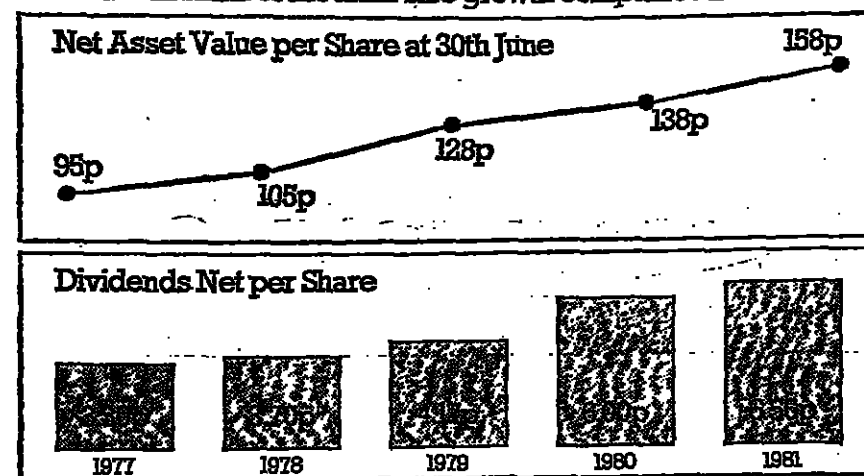


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1980 includes 0.3p special non-recurring dividend.

Total assets at 30th June 1981: £16,852,776

For a copy of the Annual Report, contact the Secretary, Robert Fleming Services Ltd, P.O. Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR.

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COMPANY NEWS

REPORTS TO MEETINGS

Nesco members told of developments

MR TREVOR TREFGARNE, the chairman of Nesco Investments, told members at yesterday's AGM of four developments which had occurred since the preparation of his statement included in the annual report.

First, he said dividends amounting to approximately £174,000 from the Nigerian subsidiary in respect of last year had been received in London.

Second, he revealed that the group had increased its shareholding in Braithwaite and Co. Engineers to 137,500 shares (5.09 per cent).

The third change, he said, was that the motor distribution subsidiary, Colmore, had disposed of Archie E. Moss, a garage business in Loughborough, for approximately £155,000, including repayment of inter-group debt.

The fourth development was that director Mr N. J. Ferguson had given notice of his intention to resign from the company at the end of September. He planned to devote his time and efforts entirely to his professional accounting practice, the chairman explained.

Mr Ferguson had served as secretary to the company for more than 17 years and had been elected to the board in November, 1975.

Prospects about trading and profits for the current year were outlined by chairman at other annual meetings.

At Alexander Russell, the fuel and building supplies distributor, quarrying and quarry management and coal recovery group, Mr S. R. Nicholson said results to date were ahead of last year although he warned that business in Scotland had not shown the revival he had been looking for in the intervening period as the group was now, for the first time, really beginning to suffer from the effects that timber-frame housing was making into the ordinary house market.

The chairman expected further curtailment of production at the Garsshore works if there were no immediate signs of an upturn. However, he still expected the group to be showing an improvement in its results for the first half compared with last year, but, perhaps not to the extent the company might have hoped for at the beginning of the summer.

With regard to the second half Mr Nicholson said that building material activities should show an overall improvement, compared with the same period last year, given reasonable weather. He pointed out that coal plans

were now well run in and with initial teething problems ironed out this division should show an improved performance this winter.

The group, he said, was negotiating one or two contracts for coal plants in the UK and had agreed to take a third stake in a consortium in the U.S. to work a coal recovery deposit in Pennsylvania.

At the Wolverhampton Steam Laundry Mr John Nash, the chairman, stated that sales, margins and profits for the first four months of the current year showed a marked improvement over last year and that the current prospects for the company were most encouraging.

Mr Derrick Cowan told Cowan de Groot shareholders that trading conditions continued to be difficult and vigorous measures had been taken to restore profitability to those areas of the group which were suffering. These measures, however, take time to become effective, he added.

He said the directors were hopeful of producing a reasonable result for the year, although the profit for the two half periods would be more evenly balanced than they were last year.

Mr S. V. Weber intimated in his review that Aera Needle Group had incurred a loss in the first half. After the meeting he said he did not expect this loss to exceed £165,000. Indications at this stage were that the rate of loss had substantially reduced, he added.

He pointed out that the final four months of the year encompassed the group's most important selling season and that the outcome for the full year would therefore depend on the demand and the group's ability to meet it during the four months.

At C. H. Industrials' meeting Mr Tim Healey told shareholders that there was little he could add to his statement within the report and accounts.

He said there were a number of areas within the group's businesses where new commercial opportunities were being developed which should produce significant returns in the future.

Although the level of profitability remained unsatisfactory, he pointed out that the necessary influences on the group appear to have levelled out and that the outcome for the current year would be particularly dependent on the timing of any upturn in demand and on future acquisitions.

APPOINTMENTS

Managing director of Ingersoll

Mr Jeffrey Cohen, 35, currently managing director of Heron Service Stations and Heron Credit Card has also been appointed group managing director of INGERSOLL. He was aftermarket manager, Shell UK, prior to joining Heron as Heron Service Stations in August 1979.

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS has appointed Mr John Hayles to the board. He is BNFL's director of finance, based at Warrington, Cheshire.

Admiral Sir Rae McKaig has been appointed an executive director of INCHCAPE.

Mr Douglas Lang has been appointed managing director of CARDINAL MATRIX BROADCASTING, a company recently acquired by the Brooke Tool Engineering Group from Tube Investments.

Mr Malcolm (M. H.) Harrison has been appointed chief manager of MIDLAND BANK'S Tokyo branch in succession to Mr Mark (M. A.) Byng, who is returning to Midland Bank International in London to take up a new appointment.

Mr T. V. McGhie has been appointed technical director of DORMAN SMITH FUSES, following the retirement of Mr Fred Bentley. Dorman Smith is a member of the BICC Group.

Mr Richard Thayer has been appointed a director of CENTURY ALUMINIUM following his retirement from the Midland Bank. Mr Malcolm Bowden has been appointed alternate production director of Century Aluminium and director of Century Anodising.

Mr Chris Meadows Smith has been appointed managing director of FERTITRADE, an associated company of L. and K. Fertilisers. He succeeds Mr D. A. P. Pasch who is returning to Chemische Werke Huls A G through affiliate Ruhr Stickstoff AG one of Fertitrade's shareholders, to take up another assignment. Mr Meadows Smith, who takes up his new appointment on October 1, joined Fertitrade in 1976 as UK sales manager to develop the company's activities as agents for Ruhr Stickstoff AG, the West German manufacturer.

Mr Allard Jiskoot (Dutch), Mr David Montagu and Mr Charles Wilson have been appointed to the board of RIT.

Mr Donald Campbell who retired recently from the Taylor Bonney division of Gulf and

Western has been appointed a director of MOSSWOOD ENGINEERING SERVICES, Ellesmere Port.

ARBUTHNOT INSURANCE SERVICES has appointed Mr D. G. W. Gayer as a director.

Ms Wendy J. Binder, an area manager at WELLS FARGO BANKS, London branch, has been elected a vice president.

Mr W. E. Williams will retire as chairman of W. WILLIAMS AND SONS (HOLDINGS) Ltd, or before the next annual meeting in July 1982. Mr Chris Phillips, who was recently appointed to the board, has been appointed deputy chairman.

TRANSPARENT PAPER has appointed two executive directors, Dr Andrew N. Ferrar and Mr Kenneth L. MacDonald.

Mr A. H. Satten has been appointed sole managing director of WATNEY'S LONDON. He was formerly joint managing director. The company's other joint managing director, Mr M. J. Kettell, has been appointed to the board of sister company, Chief and Brewer.

GLENTURRY DISTILLERY has been acquired by Colman-Holding SA through its Scottish subsidiary company Cosco. Mr Robert Colman becomes the new chairman and Mr James Fairlie continues as managing director and secretary.

The BRITISH CHEMICAL DAMPCOURSE ASSOCIATION has appointed Mr Charles "Jonah" Jones as its first director.

AAA INDUSTRIES has appointed Mr Roger M. Mitchell as managing director of subsidiary, Airofl-Firearms. Mr John D. Stone and Mr Hugh G. Shearby have been appointed directors, technical director and production director respectively.

ROBERT GLEW AND CO has appointed Mr Alan Gould Martin as non-executive director. Mr Martin was formerly a director of Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation.

Mr R. Derek Finlay has been elected to the board of H. J. HEINZ COMPANY, A Scott. Mr Finlay moved to Heinz world headquarters in Pittsburgh, on July 1 following two years as managing director of Heinz UK. Last month he became senior vice-president, corporate development.

Mr Nicolò Dubini has been made managing director of BANKERS' TRUST FINANCIAL

SpA, a Rome-based finance company wholly-owned by Bankers Trust Company of New York. Mr Dubini succeeds Mr Abel Herrero-Ducoux who has been assigned to Bankers Trust International, London.

Mr Edward A. Treichel has been elected a vice-president of CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY of Chicago.

LIGHTNIN' MICKERS LIMITED has appointed Mr D. E. Lewis as chairman and managing director. Mr Lewis is also appointed to the board of the company's subsidiaries in Europe: Lightnin' France SA, Deutsche Lightnin' GmbH, Lightnin' Belgium SA, Lightnin' ab and Lightnin' Europe Limited. Lightnin' Meters Limited is a subsidiary of the General Signal Corporation of Stamford, U.S.

Mr L. V. McGuire has been appointed general manager for HAMILTON BROTHERS OIL AND GAS in Aberdeen. He will have responsibility for North Sea drilling, engineering, production and marine operations.

Mr Timothy Cates has been appointed to the board of HEALTH AND DIET FOOD COMPANY group with special responsibilities for contractual and general legal matters.

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE has appointed Mr Alan Wilson as legal director. He will remain company secretary.

Mr G. F. Drake, Mr A. McGowan and Mr M. Sutton have been made directors of WILLIAMS'S LIMITED of Bootle, a subsidiary of Squirrel Horn.

Mr Michael Cafferty has been appointed technical director of GEO. BRAY AND CO., Leeds-based manufacturer of gas jets and burners.

Dr Andrew Nicholas Ferrar and Mr Kenneth Lewis MacDonald have been appointed directors of TRANSPARENT PAPER.

Mr Peter L. Barth has been appointed as vice-president/managing director, Europe, Middle East and Africa for STEINER CONTROLS INTERNATIONAL INC. Mr Barth, formerly with Kimberly Clark Corporation and Kennecott Corporation, is based in Basingstoke.

The WILLIAMS LEA GROUP has appointed Mr Terry Green managing director of Perivan colour print, Southend. He succeeds Mr Fred Wallis who retired at the end of September.

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With DebitKey, we can help reconcile your accounts by providing a list of transactions (cheques, money transfers, reimbursements and LCs) sorted by your own system of reference numbers. We have also introduced TeleDraft, a telex initiated collection draft for the international banking market.

Beyond that we offer an automated Letter of Credit system that is one of the most sophisticated available and NotelLine, a computer based system for processing

commercial paper that saves our customers money by eliminating wasted time and potential for errors. And these are only a sample of the products we offer to help you provide better service to your customers.

The Relationship Manager, who is the cornerstone of our system, can bring any, or every, bank service to bear on your requirements. And provide the equally important continuing service that we feel is so vital.

As an additional commitment to our customers, Bankers Trust is introducing a new specialist position, the Customer Service Officer. CSOs not only find solutions to your specific problems, but also insure that customers receive maximum benefit from each product we offer.

And then, of course, we also offer a broad range of first class credit products.

Which is one of the very few things we offer which may seem like everybody else's.

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Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, The Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Thailand, United Kingdom, Venezuela, West Germany, Yugoslavia.

This Prospectus includes information given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the United Mexican States ("Mexico") and the Stock, Mexico has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or of opinion. Mexico accepts responsibility accordingly.

Dated 14th September, 1981



UNITED MEXICAN STATES

ISSUE ON A YIELD BASIS OF £50,000,000 LOAN STOCK 2008

Redeemable Annually at Stockholders' Option from 1988 to 2007

Payable as to £30 per cent. on application
and as to the balance by 17th November, 1981
with interest payable semi-annually on 1st March and 1st September.

The Issue has been underwritten by

County Bank Limited

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("The Stock Exchange") for the £50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008 (the "Stock") to be admitted to the Official List for quotation in the Gilt-edged market. The Stock will be available either in registered form, transferable in amounts and multiples of one penny, or, at the option of the holder, in bearer form, represented by Bearer Bonds which will be available in denominations of £1,000 and £10,000 only. Stock in registered form may be exchanged for Bearer Bonds and vice versa at any time after 15th December, 1981. Renounceable allotment letters (partly paid) in respect of the Stock will be despatched on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981. Certificates in respect of Stock in registered form and Bearer Bonds in respect of Stock in bearer form will be available on 15th December, 1981 provided the balance of the monies payable has been duly paid.

No person has been authorised to give any information or make any representation in connection with the issue of the Stock other than those contained in this Prospectus and, if given or made, any such information or representation should not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Underwriters referred to above (the "Underwriters") or Mexico.

The Stock is not open for applications to subscribe by U.S. or Mexican persons. "U.S. person" means any person who is a national, citizen or resident of, or who is normally resident in, the United States, including the estate of any such person, corporations and partnerships created or organised in the United States and "United States" means the United States of America, its territories and possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction. "Mexican person" means any person who is a national of or resident in the United Mexican States.

All references to "pounds", "pounds sterling", "£" and "pence" in this Prospectus are to pounds and pence of the United Kingdom. All references to "pesos" and "P" are to Mexican Pesos. On 10th September, 1981 the exchange rate between the pound sterling and the Mexican peso was approximately £1=P44.85. All currencies have been converted into pounds sterling at the rates prevailing on the relevant dates.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

All applications must be made in the form of the Application Form provided or in such other form as County Bank Limited ("County Bank") may accept and must be lodged with National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, PO Box 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 17th September, 1981 and must comply with the provisions of "Terms of Payment in Respect of Applications" below.

Applications for Stock must be for a minimum of £100 nominal amount of Stock and thereafter for the following multiples of Stock:

Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple
Up to £1,000	£100
£1,000 to £10,000	£1,000
£10,000 to £50,000	£5,000
£50,000 or greater	£25,000

County Bank on behalf of Mexico reserves the right to reject any application and to accept any application in part only. If any application is not accepted the amount paid on application will be returned by post at the risk of the person submitting the application. If any application is accepted for a smaller amount of Stock than that applied for, the balance of the amount paid on application will be so returned, and in the meantime all such amounts will be held in a separate account.

County Bank on behalf of Mexico will publish the basis of allotment in the Financial Times on Friday, 18th September, 1981. It is expected that letters confirming allotments will be despatched not later than Friday, 18th September, 1981.

Brokerage of 1/4 per cent. of the nominal amount of Stock allotted will be paid by Mexico to recognised Banks or Stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of Application Forms bearing their stamp or in respect of other forms of application accepted by County Bank as being from a recognised Bank or Stockbroker. The expression "recognised Bank or Stockbroker" shall mean any organisation which is a recognised Bank for the purposes of the Banking Act 1979 and any firm of Stockbrokers which is a member of The Stock Exchange and such other banks or brokers as County Bank shall at its absolute discretion agree for the purposes of the issue.

Acceptances of applications will be conditional *inter alia* upon the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting the Stock to the Official List on or before 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981. If the Underwriters exercise their right to terminate the Underwriting Agreement referred to below or if the Underwriting Agreement does not become unconditional (see "Underwriting Arrangements" below), such acceptances will become void.

Copies of this Prospectus may be obtained from:

County Bank Limited
11 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1BB
National Westminster Bank Limited
New Issues Department, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD
206 Piccadilly, London W1A 2DG
80 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DZ
44 Blythswood Square, Glasgow G2 4AQ
Colmore Centre, 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3NS
65 King Street, Manchester M60 2DB
32 Canal Street, Bristol BS99 7UG
W. Greenwell & Co.
Boy Bells House, Broad Street, London EC4M 9EL
The Stock Exchange in London
Rowe & Pitman
City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA
The Stock Exchange in London

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ISSUE

Determination of Rate of Interest and Issue Price
The Stock will have attached such rate of interest and be issued at such price as will result in the Stock having a Gross Redemption Yield determined on the basis described below (the "Issue Yield").

The Issue Yield shall mean the sum of 1.50 per cent. and the Gross Redemption Yield, rounded up to two decimal places, on 13 1/2 per cent. Treasury Stock 2004-08 calculated by reference to the price of such Treasury Stock on The Stock Exchange at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th September, 1981; such price to be determined by County Bank to be the arithmetic mean of the bid and offered prices quoted on a dealing basis for settlement on the following business day by three jobbers in the Gilt-edged market. The Gross Redemption Yield will be expressed as a percentage and will be calculated on the basis set out under "Calculation of Gross Redemption Yields" below.

The rate of interest attaching to the Stock will be an integral multiple of one quarter of one per cent. and will be as high as possible consistent with an issue price as near as possible to but not less than 96 per cent. The issue price will be expressed as a percentage rounded down to three places of decimals.

It is intended that notice of the Issue Yield, rate of interest and issue price will be published in the Financial Times on Thursday, 17th September, 1981.

Underwriting Arrangements

By an Underwriting Agreement dated 14th September, 1981, County Bank Limited, Baring Brothers & Co., Limited, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited and S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. have agreed with Mexico to underwrite the issue of the Stock.

SUMMARY INFORMATION The Issue

Securities	£50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008.
Payment	The Stock will be payable as to £30% on application and as to the balance by 17th November, 1981.
Interest	Payable semi-annually on 1st March and 1st September.
Redemption by Stockholders	The Stock may be redeemed at the option of the Stockholders on the Interest Payment Date falling in September in the years 1988-2007 inclusive.
Final Maturity	1st September, 2008.

UNITED MEXICAN STATES

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Gross Domestic Product (billions of pesos) (1)	1,228,000	1,674,700	2,122,800	2,767,000	—	—
Gross Fixed Investment (billions of pesos) (1)	267,600	339,100	476,100	698,100	—	—
National Consumer Price Index (annual increase %) (2)	27.2%	20.7%	16.2%	20.0%	29.8%	28.7%
Petroleum Production (thousands of barrels per day) (3)	876,587	1,085,550	1,329,579	1,618,001	2,129,465	—
Natural Gas (000 cubic feet per day) (3)	2,108,600	2,046,200	2,561,400	2,916,600	3,548,000	—
Petroleum Reserves (billions of barrels) (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (billions of barrels) (3)	7,278	10,427	28,402	33,560	47,224	NA
Natural Gas (billions of cubic feet) (3)	3,882	5,574	11,791	12,343	12,902	NA
Total	11,160	16,001	40,193	45,866	60,126	72,000
Petroleum Exports (billions of pounds) (4)	256.4	530.6	899.5	1,796.5	4,350.4	—
Public Finance (billions of pesos) (5)	335.7	483.8	632.8	868.4	1,217.6	1,634.3
Total Revenues	473.9	612.7	752.2	1,047.8	1,439.1	2,018.3
Total Expenditures	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deficit to be Financed (138.2) (128.9) (119.4) (779.4) (181.8) (297.9)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exports (f.o.b.) (billions of pounds) (6)	1,949.3	2,301.3	2,968.5	3,964.9	6,402.1	—
Imports (billions of pounds) (6)	3,544.7	3,067.6	3,876.4	5,401.4	7,767.5	—
Balance of Trade (billions of pounds) (7) (8)	(1,595.4)	(766.3)	(907.9)	(1,436.5)	(1,365.4)	—
Total International Reserves (billions of pounds) (9)	1,384.9	1,682.7	2,097.0	2,579.0	3,030.4	5,650.5
External Public Debt (billions of pounds) (10)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Short-Term (2,150.3) 1,427.7 609.3 646.7 666.4 1,454.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-Term 9,311.7 10,568.1 12,329.0 12,697.3 14,445.6 14,864.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 11,462.0 11,995.8 12,938.2 13,344.0 15,112.0 16,318.8	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:
(1) Current prices.
(2) Preliminary.
(3) Redwood index (base 100 = 1970 = 1971 = 1972 = 1973 = 1974 = 1975 = 1976 = 1977 = 1978 = 1979 = 1980 = 1981 = 1982 = 1983 = 1984 = 1985 = 1986 = 1987 = 1988 = 1989 = 1990 = 1991 = 1992 = 1993 = 1994 = 1995 = 1996 = 1997 = 1998 = 1999 = 2000 = 2001 = 2002 = 2003 = 2004 = 2005 = 2006 = 2007 = 2008 = 2009 = 2010 = 2011 = 2012 = 2013 = 2014 = 2015 = 2016 = 2017 = 2018 = 2019 = 2020 = 2021 = 2022 = 2023 = 2024 = 2025 = 2026 = 2027 = 2028 = 2029 = 2030 = 2031 = 2032 = 2033 = 2034 = 2035 = 2036 = 2037 = 2038 = 2039 = 2040 = 2041 = 2042 = 2043 = 2044 = 2045 = 2046 = 2047 = 2048 = 2049 = 2050 = 2051 = 2052 = 2053 = 2054 = 2055 = 2056 = 2057 = 2058 = 2059 = 2060 = 2061 = 2062 = 2063 = 2064 = 2065 = 2066 = 2067 = 2068 = 2069 = 2070 = 2071 = 2072 = 2073 = 2074 = 2075 = 2076 = 2077 = 2078 = 2079 = 2080 = 2081 = 2082 = 2083 = 2084 = 2085 = 2086 = 2087 = 2088 = 2089 = 2090 = 2091 = 2092 = 2093 = 2094 = 2095 = 2096 = 2097 = 2098 = 2099 = 2100 = 2101 = 2102 = 2103 = 2104 = 2105 = 2106 = 2107 = 2108 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= 2681 = 2682 = 2683 = 2684 = 2685 = 2686 = 2687 = 2688 = 2689 = 2690 = 2691 = 2692 = 2693 = 2694 = 2695 = 2696 = 2697 = 2698 = 2699 = 2700 = 2701 = 2702 = 2703 = 2704 = 2705 = 2706 = 2707 = 2708 = 2709 = 2710 = 2711 = 2712 = 2713 = 2714 = 2715 = 2716 = 2717 = 2718 = 2719 = 2720 = 2721 = 2722 = 2723 = 2724 = 2725 = 2726 = 2727 = 2728 = 2729 = 2730 = 2731 = 2732 = 2733 = 2734 = 2735 = 2736 = 2737 = 2738 = 2739 = 2740 = 2741 = 2742 = 2743 = 2744 = 2745 = 2746 = 2747 = 2748 = 2749 = 2750 = 2751 = 2752 = 2753 = 2754 = 2755 = 2756 = 2757 = 2758 = 2759 = 2760 = 2761 = 2762 = 2763 = 2764 = 2765 = 2766 = 2767 = 2768 = 2769 = 2770 = 2771 = 2772 = 2773 = 2774 = 2775 = 2776 = 2777 = 2778 = 2779 = 2780 = 2781 = 2782 = 2783 = 2784 = 2785 = 2786 = 2787 = 2788 = 2789 = 2790 = 2791 = 2792 = 2793 = 2794 = 2795 = 2796 = 2797 = 2798 = 2799 = 2800 = 2801 = 2802 = 2803 = 2804 = 2805 = 2806 = 2807 = 2808 = 2809 = 2810 = 2811 = 2812 = 2813 = 2814 = 2815 = 2816 = 2817 = 2818 = 2819 = 2820 = 2821 = 2822 = 2823 = 2824 = 2825 = 2826 = 2827 = 2828 = 2829 = 2830 = 2831 = 2832 = 2833 = 2834 = 2835 = 2836 = 2837 = 2838 = 2839 = 2840 = 2841 = 2842 = 2843 = 2844 = 2845 = 2846 = 2847 = 2848 = 2849 = 2850 = 2851 = 2852 = 2853 = 2854 = 2855 = 2856 = 2857 = 2858 = 2859 = 2860 = 2861 = 2862 = 2863 = 2864 = 2865 = 2866 = 2867 = 2868 = 2869 = 2870 = 2871 = 2872 = 2873 = 2874 = 2875 = 2876 = 2877 = 2878 = 2879 = 2880 = 2881 = 2882 = 2883 = 2884 = 2885 = 2886 = 2887 = 2888 = 2889 = 2890 = 2891 = 2892 = 2893 = 2894 = 2895 = 2896 = 2897 = 2898 = 2899 = 2900 = 2901 = 2902 = 2903 = 2904 = 2905 = 2906 = 2907 = 2908 = 2909 = 2910 = 2911 = 2912 = 2913 = 2914 = 2915 = 2916 = 2917 = 2918 = 2919 = 2920 = 2921 = 2922 = 2923 = 2924 = 2925 = 2926 = 2927 = 2928 = 2929 = 2930 = 2931 = 2932 = 2933 = 2934 = 2935 = 2936 = 2937 = 2938 = 2939 = 2940 = 2941 = 2942 = 2943 = 2944 = 2945 = 2946 = 2947 = 2948 = 2949 = 2950 = 2951 = 2952 = 2953 = 2954 = 2955 = 2956 = 2957 = 2958 = 2959 = 2960 = 2961 = 2962 = 2963 = 2964 = 2965 = 2966 = 2967 = 2968 = 2969 = 2970 = 2971 = 2972 = 2973 = 2974 = 2975 = 2976 = 2977 = 2978 = 2979 = 2980 = 2981 = 2982 = 2983 = 2984 = 2985 = 2986 = 2987 = 2988 = 2989 = 2990 = 2991 = 2992 = 2993 = 2994 = 2995 = 2996 = 2997 = 2998 = 2999 = 3000 = 3001 = 3002 = 3003 = 3004 = 3005 = 3006 = 3007 = 3008 = 3009 = 3010 = 3011 = 3012 = 3013 = 3014 = 3015 = 3016 = 3017 = 3018 = 3019 = 3020 = 3021 = 3022 = 3023 = 3024 = 3025 = 3026 = 3027 = 3028 = 3029 = 3030 = 3031 = 3032 = 3033 = 3034 = 3035 = 3036 = 3037 = 3038 = 3039 = 3040 = 3041 = 3042 = 3043 = 3044 = 3045 = 3046 = 3047 = 3048 = 3049 = 3050 = 3051 = 3052 = 3053 = 3054 = 3055 = 3056 = 3057 = 3058 = 3059 = 3060 =

UNITED MEXICAN STATES continued

PARTICULARS OF THE LOAN STOCK

The \$50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008 (the "Stock") of the United Mexican States ("Mexico") was authorised by Directive Number 4625 dated 25th March, 1981 of the President of Mexico and will be issued pursuant to a Deed Poll (the "Deed Poll") to be entered into by Mexico. The following is a summary of, and is subject to, the detailed provisions of the Deed Poll, copies of which will be available for inspection at the specified offices of the Registrar and the Principal Paying Agent referred to below.

1. Status

The Stock will represent a direct, unconditional, general and (subject to the provisions below) unsecured obligation of Mexico and will rank at least *pari passu* with all other outstanding unsecured External Indebtedness (as hereinafter defined) of Mexico, present and future.

2. Negative Pledge

Mexico will undertake that it will not at any time while any part of the Stock is outstanding secure or permit to be secured any External Indebtedness of Mexico or any guarantee of any External Indebtedness of any other person by any mortgage, lien, pledge or other charge upon any of its present or future assets or revenues, without at the same time according to the Stock the same security or such other security as may be approved by an Extraordinary Resolution of the holders of the Stock (the "Stockholders"). External Indebtedness means all indebtedness which is expressed in, or capable of being discharged by payment of, a currency other than the national currency of Mexico and which is payable to a non-resident of Mexico.

3. Interest

The Stock will bear interest from 23rd September, 1981 at a rate per annum to be determined in accordance with "Determination of Rate of Interest and Issue Price" above. Interest will be payable by equal half-yearly instalments on 1st March and 1st September ("Interest Payment Dates") in each year except that the first payment of interest in respect of the period from 23rd September, 1981 will be calculated on the amount for the time being paid up on the Stock and on the basis of the number of days elapsed and a 365 day year.

4. Form

The Stock will be issued in registered form (hereinafter referred to as "Registered Stock") or, at the option of the holder, in bearer form (hereinafter referred to as "Bearer Stock"). Subject as hereinafter provided, Registered Stock may be exchanged in nominal amounts of £1,000 or integral multiples thereof. Bearer Stock may be represented by bearer bonds which will be available in denominations of £1,000 and £10,000 each (the "Bearer Bonds") and on issue interest coupons ("Coupons") will be attached to each Bearer Bond in respect of each Interest Payment Date following the date of issue of such Bearer Bond, provided that, in the case of a Bearer Bond issued pursuant to an application received between the day following a Record Date (as hereinafter defined) and the immediately succeeding Interest Payment Date (inclusive), no Coupon will be attached in respect of that immediately succeeding Interest Payment Date.

Applications for Bearer Stock made on or before 1st December, 1981 must be made in accordance with the instructions contained in the allotment letter which will be despatched to persons to whom Stock is allotted (see "Delivery" above). On or after 15th December, 1981, applications for such exchange shall be made on the Forms of Exchange available at the specified offices of any of the Registrar, the Principal Paying Agent and the Paying Agents referred to below and shall be made by the registered holders of Registered Stock or the holders of Bearer Bonds, as the case may be, lodging such forms duly completed at the specified office of the Exchange Agent. If any such application is lodged on or before 28th February, 1982, no charge will be made in respect of such exchange. After that date, such exchange will only be made on payment of such costs and expenses as may be incurred in connection therewith.

An application to exchange Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds shall have attached thereto the Stock Certificate(s) to which such application relates. An application to exchange Bearer Bonds for Registered Stock shall have attached thereto the Bearer Bond(s) to which such application relates together with all unattached Coupons appertaining thereto. Failing presentation of all unattached Coupons appertaining to any Bearer Bond, no exchange shall be made in respect thereof. In the case of an application received during the period commencing on the day following a Record Date and expiring on the day before the next Interest Payment Date, a Coupon falling due for payment on such Interest Payment Date shall, for the purposes of this paragraph be deemed to have matured. If the Stock Certificate(s) attached to an application for the exchange of Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds relate(s) to a greater nominal amount of Stock which is not an integral multiple of £1,000 the balance of such Stock will remain in registered form and a Stock Certificate will be issued to the holder in respect thereof. All applications for the exchange of Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds and vice versa will be irrevocable. The exchange shall take effect on receipt by the Exchange Agent of a duly completed Form of Exchange.

The initial Principal Paying Agent and the initial Exchange Agent will be National Westminster Bank Limited and its specified office is PO Box No. 297, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2ES. The initial Registrar will be National Westminster Bank Limited, Registrar's Department, PO Box 82, 37 Broad Street, Bristol BS59 7NH. Mexico reserves the right to terminate the appointment of the Principal Paying Agent, the Exchange Agent and the Registrar provided that no such termination shall take effect until a further principal paying agent or exchange agent having a specified office in London or a further registrar, as the case may be, has been appointed and notice of such appointment has been given to holders of Stock in accordance with "Notices" below.

Bearer Bonds issued in exchange for Registered Stock will be available for delivery at the specified office of the Exchange Agent, and Stock Certificates in respect of Registered Stock issued in exchange for Bearer Bonds will be despatched, in each case, as soon as practicable and in any event within three days of receipt of the relevant Form of Exchange duly completed, in accordance with the instructions contained therein.

5. Redemption and Purchase

(a) Unless previously redeemed or purchased and cancelled, the Stock will be redeemed at par on 1st September, 2008.

(b) Mexico will, at the option of any Stockholder, redeem on the Interest Payment Date falling in September in the years 1988 to 2007 inclusive, any Stock at par. To exercise the redemption option a Stockholder must lodge with the Registrar or any Paying Agent not less than 45 days nor more than 60 days prior to such Interest Payment Date an application for redemption (in a form to be supplied by the Registrar or any Paying Agent) duly completed, together with the Certificate in respect of the Registered Stock or the Bearer Bonds (together with all unattached Coupons appertaining thereto) in respect of which such option is to be exercised. Any such application for redemption will be irrevocable and any Certificates or Bearer Bonds so deposited may not be withdrawn.

(c) Mexico may at any time purchase Stock either on The Stock Exchange or on any other recognised securities market or by tender (available to all Stockholders alike) at any price or by private treaty at a price (exclusive of accrued interest and all costs of purchase) not exceeding 110 per cent of the middle market quotation for the Stock based on the Daily Official List of The Stock Exchange ruling on the previous dealing day, but not otherwise.

(d) All Stock redeemed or purchased as aforesaid shall be cancelled and will not be available for re-issue.

6. Payments

In the case of Registered Stock, payments of principal and interest will be made in pounds sterling by warrant, drawn on a Town Clearing Branch of a bank in the City of London, which will be sent at the holders' risk by post to persons who are registered as holders of Stock at the close of business on the relevant Record Date or to their nominated agents and made payable to such holders or as they may direct. In the case of joint holders, the warrant will be sent to the first-named unless instructions to the contrary are given in writing. The "Record Date" shall mean the thirtieth day before an Interest Payment Date but should such thirtieth day fall on a day on which the specified office of the Registrar is not open for business then the Record Date shall mean the first day thereafter on which such specified office is open for business.

In the case of Bearer Stock, payments of principal will only be made against surrender of the Bearer Bonds and payments of interest will only be made against surrender of Coupons at the specified office of the Paying Agent in London in pounds sterling or, at the option of the bearer, at the specified office of any Paying Agent, by a cheque in pounds sterling drawn on, or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with, a bank in London, subject in each case to any laws or regulations applicable thereto.

If the date for payment of any amount of principal or interest in respect of any Bearer Bond or Coupon is not a business day then the holder thereof shall not be entitled to payment of such amount until the next following business day and shall not be entitled to any further interest or other payment in respect of any such delay. In this paragraph "Payments", the expression "business day" means any day on which banks are open for business in the place where the specified office of the Paying Agent at which the Bearer Bond or Coupon is presented for payment is situated and (in the case of payment by transfer to an account maintained by the payee in London as referred to above) on which dealings in pounds sterling may be carried on both in London and in such place.

The initial Paying Agents and their specified offices are listed below. Mexico will at all times maintain a Paying Agent in London and in at least one country in Europe other than the United Kingdom. Holders of Stock will be notified in accordance with "Notices" below of the replacement of any Paying Agent, a change in its specified office or the appointment of additional paying agent(s).

7. Taxation

All payments of principal and interest will be made without deduction for or on account of any present or future taxes or duties of whatever nature now or hereafter imposed or levied by Mexico or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or any federation or organisation of which Mexico is at the time of payment a member, unless Mexico is compelled by law to make payment subject to deduction for or on account of any such tax or duty.

In that event, Mexico shall pay such additional amounts of or in respect of principal or interest as may be necessary to ensure that the net amounts receivable after such deduction shall equal the respective amounts of principal and interest which would have been receivable in the absence of such deduction, provided that no such additional amount shall be payable with respect to any Stock the holder of which is liable to such taxes or duties by reason of his having some connection with Mexico other than the mere holding of Stock. References herein to principal and interest shall be deemed also to refer to any additional amounts which may be payable under this paragraph, "Taxation".

8. Events of Default

Upon the happening of any of the following events, the holder of any Stock may give notice to Mexico that the Stock registered in his name is immediately repayable and such Stock shall become repayable accordingly together in any such case with interest accrued to the date of repayment:

- default for more than 30 days in the payment of principal or interest in respect of the Stock or any part of it; or
- default in the performance of any other obligation of Mexico in respect of the Stock which shall continue for more than 30 days after written notice requiring such default to be remedied shall have been given to Mexico by any of the Stockholders; or
- Mexico becomes bound to repay prematurely the whole or a substantial part of any other issue of stock, debentures, bonds, notes or similar securities which are denominated in or payable or optionally payable in a currency other than the national currency of Mexico and which are or are intended to be listed or dealt in on any recognised stock exchange or over-the-counter market (whether initially issued by means of a public offer or private placement) by reason of a default by Mexico in its obligations in respect of the same, or fails to repay the principal amount of any such issue upon the maturity thereof or to pay when due any guarantee or indemnity in respect of the principal amount of any such issue (and such failure shall continue beyond any applicable grace period)

9. Prescription

Stockholders will cease to be entitled to amounts due in respect of principal and interest which remain unclaimed for a period of 10 years from the date on which the relevant payment first becomes due.

10. Title to Bearer Bonds and Coupons

Mexico and any Paying Agent may treat the holder of any Bearer Bond or Coupon as the absolute owner thereof (whether or not such Bearer Bond or such Coupon shall be overdue and notwithstanding any notice to the contrary or writing thereon) for the purposes of receiving payment and for all other purposes.

11. Notices

All notices shall be valid if despatched by post to the Stockholders at their registered addresses (in the case of joint holders to the address of the holder whose name stands first in the Register) and if published in one leading daily newspaper printed in the English language and with general circulation in London, or, if this is not practicable, in a newspaper having general circulation in Europe. It is expected, however, that publication of such notices will normally be made in the Financial Times. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the later of the day following the date of such despatch and the date of such first publication.

12. Transfer

The Registered Stock will be registered and transferable in amounts and integral multiples of one penny and will be transferable by instrument in writing in the same manner as if the Stock were a security to which Section 1 of the Stock Transfer Act 1963 and the Stock Exchange (Completion of Bargains) Act 1976 applied. The Bearer Bonds will be transferable by delivery.

13. Modification of Rights

The conditions appertaining to the Stock and the provisions of the Deed Poll and the rights of the Stockholders will be subject to modification by Extraordinary Resolution of the Stockholders as provided in the Deed Poll.

14. Replacement of Stock Certificates, Bearer Bonds and Coupons

Should any Stock Certificate, Bearer Bond or unattached Coupon be lost, stolen, mutilated, defaced or destroyed it may be replaced at the specified offices of either the Principal Paying Agent or the Registrar, upon payment by the claimant of the expenses incurred in connection therewith and on such terms as to evidence and indemnity as Mexico and the Principal Paying Agent or the Registrar (as the case may be) may reasonably require. Mutilated or defaced Stock Certificates must be surrendered before replacements will be issued.

15. Governing Law

The conditions appertaining to the Stock and the provisions of the Deed Poll will be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law. Mexico will submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts for all purposes in connection with the Stock and will irrevocably appoint the Consul General of Mexico in London to accept service of any proceedings on its behalf. Mexico will irrevocably consent to the fullest extent permitted by law to the giving of any relief including, without limitation, the making, enforcement or execution against any property of any order or judgement made or given in connection with any such proceedings.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds of the issue of the Stock will be utilised towards the economic development of Mexico.

STOCK EXCHANGE DEALING

The Stock in both registered and bearer forms will be dealt in on The Stock Exchange in London in the Gilt-edged market as a long-dated stock. It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will begin on Friday, 18th September, 1981. Dealings from that date until and including Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981 will be for deferred settlement on Thursday, 24th September, 1981. Thereafter, the Stock will normally be traded for settlement and delivery on the working day after the date of the transaction. The price of the Stock will be quoted inclusive of accrued interest.

UNITED KINGDOM TAXATION

In the case of interest payable in respect of Registered Stock through a registrar in the United Kingdom, United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from each payment except that: (i) under current Inland Revenue practice, payments will be made gross to holders whose registered addresses are outside the United Kingdom provided that the payments are made direct to an address abroad other than a branch of a United Kingdom bank; and (ii) holders who are not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes may apply by sending a claim form A3 to the Inspector of Foreign Dividends for exemption from United Kingdom income tax on grounds of non-residence.

In the case of interest payable in respect of Bearer Stock through a paying agent in the United Kingdom, United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from each payment in the absence of an affidavit to the effect that the beneficial owner of the Stock is not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

Under current Inland Revenue practice, a bank in the United Kingdom recognised as such by the Inland Revenue may receive interest payments (whether in respect of Registered Stock or Bearer Stock) without deduction of tax if it certifies on the occasion of each such payment that it owns the underlying Stock and is beneficially entitled to the interest.

Stockholders who are liable to United Kingdom tax on capital gains should note that the provision in section 67 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 which exempts from tax capital gains on Gilt-edged securities (as defined for such purposes) held for more than 12 months will not apply to the Stock.

UNITED MEXICAN STATES

Area and Population

The United Mexican States is a nation comprised of 31 states and the Federal District, which contains Mexico City, the nation's capital. Mexico is the third largest nation in Latin America, consisting of 761,895 square miles. The country shares borders with the United States to the north and Guatemala and Belize to the south, and has long coastlines with ports on both the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.

Mexico is the second most populous nation in Latin America, with a population of 67.4 million as of 4 June, 1980. Mexico's three largest cities are Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey, with estimated populations at 30 June, 1979 of 14.8 million, 2.5 million and 2.0 million, respectively. Improved economic and social conditions and better medical care have greatly increased the average life expectancy and have decreased the infant mortality rate by nearly two-thirds over the last four decades. This in turn has resulted in an average annual rate of population growth of 3.4% in the last ten years, but declining birth rates in urban areas, where approximately 65% of the population lives, and among women under 35 are expected to result in a moderation of the rate of increase during the 1980s. During 1980 the population grew at an annual rate of 2.7%. Government efforts are being focused on family planning and on encouraging broader distribution of the population within the country.

Form of Government and Political Parties

The present form of government was established by the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, which took effect on 1 May, 1917 and reflects the objectives of the Revolution of 1910. The Constitution establishes Mexico as a federated republic and vests in the Federal Government responsibility for most important governmental functions other than those of a primarily local or regional nature.

The Constitution divides Federal power among the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The President and the Congress are elected by popular vote of all Mexicans over 18 years of age.

Executive authority is vested in the President, who is elected for a six year term by direct popular vote. The current President of Mexico is Jose Lopez Portillo, whose term expires on 1 December, 1982. The Constitution provides that the President may serve only one term and can never be re-elected. The executive branch also consists of Secretaries, Department Heads, the Attorney General and the Attorney General for Consumer Affairs, all of whom are appointed by the President.

Legislative power is vested in a bicameral Congress composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Senators serve a six year term. Deputies serve a three year term, and neither may serve consecutive terms. The Senate is composed of two Senators from each state and two from the Federal District. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of up to 400 Deputies, of whom 300 are elected from the various electoral districts, and up to 100 of whom are appointed according to the share of the vote received by each minority party. The Constitution provides procedures for the President to veto bills and for Congress to override such veto.

The Partido Revolucionario Institucional ("PRI") is the dominant political party in Mexico and has held a majority in Congress and won all presidential elections since 1929. The PRI holds 63 of the 64 seats in the Senate and 296 of the 300 electoral district seats in the Chamber of Deputies. There are six other political parties which hold seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The number of seats each holds is as follows: Partido de Accion Nacional (43), the Partido Popular Socialista (11), the Partido Autentico de la Revolucion Mexicana (12), the Partido Comunista Mexicano (18), the Partido Democratico Mexicano (10) and the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (10).

Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice, circuit courts, district courts and other courts. The Supreme Court has 21 members who are appointed for life by the President and ratified by the Senate.

External Affairs and International Organisations

Mexico has diplomatic relations with 135 countries throughout the world. It is a charter member of the United Nations and is a founding member of the Organisation of American States ("OAS"), the International Monetary Fund ("IMF"), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("World Bank") and the Inter-American Development Bank ("IDB"). Mexico is a member of the Interim Committee for the Reform of the International Monetary System and a member of the Development Committee of the IMF and the World Bank.

Mexico was a party to the Conference of Montevideo in 1960 which established a regional trade organisation called the Latin American Free Trade Association ("LAFTA"), whose function was taken over in 1980 by the Latin American Integration Association ("LAIA"). Mexico and most other member nations of the OAS were parties to the Act of Bogota in 1960 and the Charter of Punta del Este in 1961, under which the Latin American nations and the United States adopted the principles known as the Alliance for Progress.

Mexico is a member of the Latin American Economic System ("SELA") which was formed in 1975 with the participation of 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The member nations of SELA agreed to establish a permanent system to coordinate external economic policies that will favour the interests and integrate the economies of its member countries.

THE ECONOMY

General

Prior to World War II, the Mexican economy was based principally on agriculture and mining. Since that time, the economy has become increasingly diversified and industrialised. Industrial output, including the extractive and construction industries, accounted for approximately 39% of total gross domestic product in 1980 as compared to 30% in 1950. Mexico is currently self-sufficient in many agricultural products and most minerals.

In recent years Mexico has become a significant producer and exporter of petroleum and related products.

Gross Domestic Product

During the period 1975 to 1979 gross domestic product ("GDP") increased at a compound annual growth rate of 29% in current prices and 5.1% in constant prices. After a period of relatively slow growth in 1976 and 1977, during which GDP in constant prices grew by 2.1% and 3.3%, respectively, GDP in constant prices grew by 7.3% in 1978 and 8.0% in 1979. During 1980 the economy experienced a real growth of 7.4%.

Areas of growth in GDP during 1980 measured in constant 1960 prices included petroleum and derivatives (17.5%), basic petrochemicals (12.0%), construction (12.8%), transportation and communications (10.5%), electricity (6.5%), manufacturing (5.6%), and agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing (5.3%).

The following tables set forth GDP and expenditures for the years 1975 to 1979.

	Year ended 31 December				
	1975	1976	1977	1978(1)	1979(1)
<i>(Millions of Pesos)</i>					
Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices	988,900	1,228,000	1,674,700	2,122,800	2,767,000
Add: Imports of Goods and Services	123,874	148,378	194,136	262,558	390,404
Total Supply of Goods and Services	1,112,774	1,376,378	1,868,836	2,385,358	3,157,404
Less: Exports of Goods and Services	82,734	119,102	192,025	244,691	341,986
Total Goods and Services Available for Domestic Expenditure	1,029,440	1,257,276	1,676,811	2,140,667	2,815,418
Allocation of Total Goods and Services:					
Private Consumption (2)	697,754	839,713	1,142,159	1,424,088	1,900,290
Public Consumption (3)	109,986	149,963	195,552	240,529	317,028
Total Consumption	807,740	989,676	1,337,711	1,664,617	2,217,318
Private Gross Fixed Investment	125,933	158,889	198,998	258,718	384,949
Public Gross Fixed Investment (3)	95,767	108,611	140,102	177,382	233,731
Total Gross Fixed Investment	221,700	267,500	339,100	436,100	618,680
Total Domestic Expenditure	1,029,440	1,257,276	1,676,811	2,140,667	2,815,418

Percentages of Gross Domestic Product

	1975	1976	1977	1978(1)	1979(1)
Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Add: Imports of Goods and Services	12.5%	12.1%	11.6%	12.4%	14.1%
Less: Exports of Goods and Services	8.4%	9.7%	11.5%	11.5%	12.4%
Total Goods and Services Available for Domestic Expenditure	104.1%	102.4%	100.1%	100.9%	101.7%
Allocation of Total Goods and Services:					
Private Consumption (2)	70.6%	68.4%	68.2%	67.1%	65.1%
Public Consumption (3)	11.1%	12.2%	11.7%	11.4%	11.4%
Total Consumption	81.7%	80.6%	79.9%	78.5%	76.5%
Private Gross Fixed Investment	12.7%	12.9%	11.8%	12.2%	13.9%
Public Gross Fixed Investment (3)	9.7%	8.9%	8.4%	10.2%	11.3%
Total Gross Fixed Investment	22.4%	21.8%	20.2%	22.4%	25.2%
Total Domestic Expenditure	104.1%	102.4%	100.1%	100.9%	101.7%
Gross Domestic Product at Constant 1960 Prices (in millions of pesos)	390,300	398,600	411,600	441,600	476,900
Annual Percentage Increase at Constant 1960 Prices	4.1%	2.1%	3.3%	7.3%	8.0%
Per Capita Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices (pesos)	16,432	20,247	26,643	31,555	41,053

(1) Preliminary.
(2) Includes changes in inventories.
(3) Includes transfers for the Federal Government and to budget-controlled and administratively controlled agencies.

The following table sets forth the contribution to Mexico's GDP in current prices by major sectors for the years indicated:

Contribution to Gross Domestic Product by major sectors							
	Year ended 31 December				As % of GDP		
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979(1)		
	(Millions of Pesos)						
Agriculture	70,399	89,507	118,020	147,186	172,434	7.1%	6.2%
Livestock	24,539	32,836	48,489	65,417	85,522	2.5	3.1
Forestry	3,189	4,269	5,917	7,625	12,877	0.3	0.5
Fishing	1,800	2,711	4,455	5,246	7,382	0.2	0.3
Mining	10,701	13,502	21,284	23,139	31,518	1.1	1.1
Petroleum, Coke, Basic Petrochemicals	31,304	37,431	64,141	83,119	132,371	3.2	4.8
Manufacturing (2)	227,147	289,827	405,696	513,033	638,092	23.0	23.8
Construction	63,290	78,121	99,106	124,561	186,580	6.4	6.7
Electricity	11,171	14,891	23,628	25,480	32,563	1.1	1.2
Transportation and Communications	29,013	36,197	52,968	68,916	87,760	2.9	3.2
Commerce	288,249	334,536	447,689	573,361	744,390	29.2	26.9
Services	238,423	308,847	398,910	500,805	645,577	24.1	23.3
Subtotal	999,225	1,242,235	1,690,004	2,145,028	2,797,396	101.1	101.1
Less: Adjust- ment for Banking Services	10,925	14,235	15,304	22,228	30,196	1.1	1.1
Total Gross Domestic Product	988,300	1,228,000	1,674,700	2,122,800	2,767,000	100.0%	100.0%

UNITED MEXICAN STATES *continued*

The General Development Plan 1980-1982

The cornerstone of the Government's economic and social policy during the period 1980 to 1982 is the General Development Plan (the "Plan") for such period. The Plan identifies national economic and social problems, calls for specific action by the public sector and establishes guidelines for participation by the private sector.

The Plan sets forth reforms in all sectors of the economy to promote industrialisation, obtain high levels of employment and meet the social needs of the Mexican population. It also coordinates and extends certain social, economic, political and administrative reforms already instituted by the present Administration. Measured exploitation of Mexico's oil reserves will provide major support to the implementation of the Plan. The Plan's energy policy calls for extraction and use of petroleum and petroleum products in such a manner as to provide substantial long-term income. (See "Petroleum and Petrochemicals").

Employment is a high priority of the Plan. The Government is committed to improving employment opportunities and ensuring that high levels of employment exist throughout the public and private sectors. Meeting these objectives will be dependent upon continued economic growth, public and private investment and the Government's support of developing industries.

Inflation continues to pose a persistent problem for the Mexican economy and the Plan has as one of its objectives the slowing of the inflation rate. However, the Government does not intend to reduce the rate of inflation at the cost of slowing the economy's growth or the creation of jobs. Instead, the Government expects to ease inflationary pressures by stimulating domestic supply and productivity, regulating prices of basic commodities, directing Government spending to priority needs such as agriculture, energy, education and social welfare and eliminating inefficiencies which impose unnecessary costs.

The Plan also addresses the serious problems associated with the growth of large urban areas such as Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. The Government has taken steps to ease these problems through tax and other incentives to encourage the location of new industry in less densely populated areas. In addition, the Government is making public investment in local infrastructure to promote regional economic development. The Government also plans to continue its efforts to reduce the population growth rate.

The specific goals the Plan expects to achieve by 1982 include an annual real growth rate of 8% in gross domestic product and a reduction of the population growth rate to 2.5%. It is anticipated that average real growth in public investment for the years 1981 and 1982 will be at least 14%, and if the current pattern of imports and exports continues, the specific goal of the Plan is to maintain a current account deficit of slightly below 1% of the estimated gross domestic product.

The Plan contains financial incentives to foster capital formation, especially for small and medium-sized companies which produce capital goods or basic commodities. In addition, the Government plans to maintain a policy of flexible interest rates to encourage domestic savings and to channel credit into priority areas, particularly the rural sections of the country.

Continued expansion of the economy will be supported by the Government through, among other things, direct public investment, the diversification of resources for domestic financing, the strengthening of the securities markets and the restructuring of the tax laws to eliminate distortions and stimulate savings. The Government will place increased emphasis on fostering exports and improving Mexico's international competitiveness. According to the Plan, protective trade barriers will be reviewed and a gradual opening up of the Mexican economy to world goods will occur, consistent with domestic objectives.

During 1980 some of the objectives set out in the Plan began to be achieved, for example in the areas of GDP, employment, population and investment.

Petroleum and Petrochemicals

General. The Mexican petroleum and natural gas industry, including exploration, production, refining, distribution, and the manufacture and first-sale sale of basic petrochemicals and certain other derivatives, is entrusted by the Constitution and Federal Law solely to Petróleos Mexicanos ("Pemex"), a decentralised public agency which is wholly owned by the Mexican Government. Pemex is the largest enterprise in Mexico, with total assets of \$13,299.9 million at 31 December, 1980, and net sales of \$5,022.6 million for the year ended 31 December, 1980. Prices for Pemex's products are set by the Government. Mexico is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The non-renewable nature of oil resources has imposed the need for a national policy for oil exploitation in order to create a permanent source of income. The target set by the Development Plan for oil production at year end 1982 was 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD), although this target was reached in December 1980. Average daily production for 1980 was approximately 1.9 million BPD.

In 1980 the petroleum industry, excluding secondary petrochemicals, contributed 23.7% of current Government revenues (11.5% in 1979). For 1980 this industry provided 67.8% of the total value of exports (46.4% in 1979).

Oil and natural gas supply the majority of Mexico's primary energy requirements, including that needed to generate approximately 55% of the electric output of the nation. Mexico is self-sufficient in both crude oil and natural gas; Pemex currently produces more than 99% of the country's total requirements for refined products. Mexico became a net exporter of petroleum products in 1975 with the development of new discoveries in the Reforma area of southern Mexico. In 1980 Mexico exported an average of 621,750 BPD of crude oil worth a total of \$2,952.0 million, representing a 147.3% increase over the previous year.

Pemex pays taxes to the Government based on total revenues at a rate of 15% for petrochemicals and 27% for all other products. Exports of crude oil are subject to a 59.35% tax on gross sales (including a 1% ad valorem tax). Total tax revenue received by the Government from Pemex has grown from P8,598 million in 1975 to P163,688 million in 1980.

Reserves and Exploration. Mexico currently has proven petroleum and natural gas reserves equivalent to approximately 72 billion barrels, which are the fourth largest in the world. Proven reserves are determined according to the American Petroleum Institute's methods of measurement, using international reservoir engineering principles and include those reserves which are expected to be produced through primary and secondary recovery, using existing technology and operating methods at current levels of production costs and petroleum prices, but do not include the areas where new petroleum discoveries have been made and not yet placed into production. In addition, probable reserves are estimated at 58.6 billion barrels and potential reserves (including probable reserves) are estimated at 250 billion barrels.

The table below sets forth Mexico's proven reserves of crude oil and natural gas liquids and natural gas from 1976 to 1980, and as of 15 March, 1981, and the total of the above as of 1 September, 1981.

	Total Proven Reserves				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Crude Oil and Natural Gas liquids (billions of barrels)	7,778	10,427	28,405	33,560	47,224
Natural Gas (equivalent of crude oil in millions of barrels)	3,882	5,574	11,791	12,243	12,902
Total	11,660	16,001	40,196	45,803	60,126

Prior to 1975, Pemex's exploration efforts were concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain area, where substantially all of the country's oil and gas fields had been discovered. Since 1975, however, Pemex has increased its exploration activities in other regions. The significant increase in proven reserves between 1977 and 1978 is the result of exploration and drilling efforts in the Reforma area in southern Mexico and the increase from 1979 to 1980 is the result of exploration and drilling efforts in the Campeche Gulf, Chiapas, Tabasco, Sabalera and Chicontepec areas. Approximately P6,122.1 million or 37.0% of the P16,519.3 million exploration budget for 1980 was allocated to evaluation of geological basins in which prior exploration has yielded encouraging results, such as Baja California and the southern offshore zone.

Production and Refining. The following table sets forth average daily production rates for crude oil and condensate, natural gas liquids and natural gas in each of the years 1976 to 1980.

	Pemex Average Daily Production				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Crude Oil and Condensate (BPD)	800,864	981,069	1,212,622	1,471,030	1,936,047
Natural Gas Liquids (BPD)	75,723	104,481	116,957	146,971	193,418
Total Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids (BPD)	876,587	1,085,550	1,329,579	1,618,001	2,129,465
Refinery Runs (BPD)	737,743	829,234	889,678	964,806	1,148,900
Natural Gas (000 cubic feet per day)	2,108,600	2,046,200	2,561,400	2,916,000	3,548,000

Production rates for 1980 averaged 1,936,047 BPD for crude oil and condensates, 193,418 BPD for natural gas liquids and 3,548 million cubic feet per day for natural gas.

Pemex's principal refining activities are concentrated in seven major refineries and two smaller installations. At 31 December, 1980, Pemex's total refining capacity was 1,476,000 BPD with an average 45.7% yield of petroleum distillates. Total production of refined products amounted to 1,148,900 BPD in 1980, or 77.8% of refining capacity. This number represents an increase of 73.4% in refined production since 1975. Pemex is engaged in a programme to expand and upgrade its refining capacity through the construction of five major new refining complexes. The total cost of these five refineries over the period 1980-1982 is expected to be US\$1.0 billion.

During 1980, Pemex produced an aggregate of 3,548.0 million cubic feet per day of natural gas. It has ten cryogenic plants capable of processing 2,492 million cubic feet per day and four absorption plants with a processing capacity of 1,525 million cubic feet per day. Eight additional cryogenic natural gas processing plants with an aggregate capacity of 4,000 million cubic feet per day are currently under construction. Approximately 24% of natural gas production was flared in 1976, 13% in 1977 and 12% in 1978, 12.4% in 1979 and 12% in 1980.

Distribution. Pemex-owned natural gas and product pipelines connect the major producing areas with Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Chihuahua. At the end of 1980, Pemex's pipeline facilities consisted of 5,608.1 kilometres for crude oil and natural gas liquids, 8,393 kilometres for natural gas and 6,999 kilometres for finished products. Several major pipelines are at present under construction or in various planning stages.

Petrochemicals. Pemex produced 7.2 million metric tonnes of basic petrochemicals in 1980. At the end of 1980 Pemex was producing 38 basic petrochemical derivatives. It has established as an operating priority the supply of basic feedstock for manufacturing companies. Pemex has 81 petrochemical plants in operation with an aggregate capacity of 8,884,453 metric tonnes per year and 32 additional petrochemical plants are under construction. Major expansions are anticipated in the production of ammonia, ethylene and polyethylene and in the utilisation of natural gas liquids as feedstocks and aromatics.

Under Mexican law, the Government may grant licences for the manufacture of secondary petrochemicals to private companies whose share capital is at least 60% owned by Mexican nationals.

Exports and Imports of Petroleum Products

Exports and imports of oil and gas products for the periods indicated are as follows:

	Volume of Petroleum Exports and Imports				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980(1)
Exports:					
Crude oil (BPD)	94,180	202,016	365,060	672,200	837,750
Refined products (BPD)	3,235	4,573	1,844	10,141	46,403
Petrochemicals (tons per day)	—	85	1,920	2,055	2,065
Natural gas (000 cubic feet per day)	—	—	—	—	280,900
Imports:					
Refined products (BPD)	25,371	9,485	29,088	27,084	14,831
Petrochemicals (tons per day)	885	1,361	1,330	1,386	2,082

(1) Preliminary

	Value of Petroleum Exports and Imports				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Exports:					
Crude oil	246.9	514.2	861.8	1,717.6	3,952.0
Refined and other petroleum products	9.3	11.9	4.6	30.5	160.7
Petrochemicals	0.2	1.7	33.1	48.4	50.4
Imports:					
Refined and other petroleum products	74.1	26.9	70.5	94.0	101.6
Petrochemicals	61.0	81.5	80.1	149.4	218.7
Net exports	123.3	422.2	788.9	1,553.1	4,050.1
Percentage increase from preceding year	38.4	248.1	77.4	107.4	139.5

The following table sets forth Pemex's principal export markets for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980.

	Principal Export Markets		
	1978	1979	1980(1)
Brazil	3,754.7	13,785.0	163,189.9
France	—	—	205,198.7
Japan	52,111.6	128,945.5	265,980.8
Spain	2,948.3	—	171,115.8
United States	35,672.9	157,177.6	476,534.9
Other	781,107.5	1,440,021.6	2,975,971.1
Total	899,474.6	1,796,560.6	4,342,576.3

(1) Preliminary

Manufacturing

The industrial development of Mexico during the past ten years has been marked by rapid growth in manufacturing evidenced by increased output, greater integration of processes and wider diversification of products. In 1979, 24% of Mexico's GDP was contributed by the manufacturing sector. The growth in manufacturing has been stimulated by Government policies emphasising the development of the economic infrastructure and encouraging the use of Mexican raw materials and resources, the substitution of domestically manufactured consumer goods for imported products and the export of industrial goods.

Manufacturing, measured in terms of constant prices, grew by 3.5% in 1976, 3.6% in 1977, 9.0% in 1978, 9.2% in 1979 and 5.6% in 1980. The growth in 1980 consisted of a 6.2% increase in capital goods and a 4.8% increase in consumer goods. During 1980 industries which achieved significant growth measured in constant 1960 prices included petroleum and derivatives (17.5%) and construction (12.8%).

Mexico has achieved self-sufficiency in a significant number of steel products. During 1980 the Mexican steel industry produced approximately 7 million tons of steel. The overall installed capacity of the steel sector totalled more than 9 million tons at 1 January, 1980 and is projected to exceed 14 million tons by 1990. As part of its programme to increase steel capacity, the Government is developing the Las Truchas steel complex in the State of Michoacan, which includes the largest steel plant in Latin America.

The Mexican automotive industry has also experienced significant growth in recent years; it produced 303,056 automobiles in 1980. From 1977 to 1980, the production of new automobiles increased by 62% and the production of trucks and buses increased by 100.6%. Between 1977 and 1980, the portion of domestically produced parts used in automobile manufacturing grew from 50% to 58.3% and between 1976 and 1980 exports of finished vehicles grew from 4,172 to 38,245 units.

Industrialisation through in-bond industries is being stimulated in the areas bordering the United States. Under the in-bond programme, producers process semi-finished products supplied from the United States for re-export to their country. Such products include electronic products, household appliances and finished textile products.

Agriculture and Livestock

Mexico's topography and climate combine to limit the area which may be cultivated to an estimated 57 million acres or about 11.7% of the total area. In 1979 approximately 33.1 million acres were harvested, of which approximately 10.2 million acres were irrigated. In order to improve agricultural productivity, the Government is continuing to expand the nation's irrigation system. Irrigation projects are estimated to have added 1.9 million acres to the irrigation system since 1970.

Agriculture, livestock and fisheries employed approximately one-third of the economically active population, but only contributed approximately 9.6% of Mexico's GDP in 1979. During the 1976-1980 period agricultural exports contributed significantly to Mexico's external trade and averaged 24.7% of total exports. Mexico is the world's leading exporter of tomatoes, the fourth largest exporter of coffee and an important exporter of cotton, cattle and vegetables. The principal export market continues to be the United States. Although Mexico has traditionally been self-sufficient in many food products, in recent years it has had to import large amounts of grain and other staple foods to fulfil domestic demand.

The following table sets forth selected agricultural production figures for the years 1976-1980.

	Agricultural Production				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980(1)
Volume of Production					
Corn	8,017	10,174	10,930	8,752	12,383
Sorghum	4,027	4,215	4,193	3,708	4,812
Cotton	6,883	416	9,369	3,788	338
Wheat	3,363	2,456	2,785	2,272	2,785
Coffee	212	182	242	228	N.A.
Sugar Cane	31,587	30,390	35,475	35,415	N.A.
Beans	740	702	949	555	971
Rice	463	567	401	481	456

	Value of Production				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Corn	37,373	28,838	31,830	30,194	59,330
Sorghum	6,883	9,369	9,315	16,776	16,776
Cotton	6,073	11,529	11,152	17,520	10,829
Wheat	5,848	5,224	7,253	6,998	9,887
Coffee	10,002	8,427	11,764	11,856	N.A.
Sugar Cane	5,316	6,848	8,685	7,968	N.A.
Beans	5,477	4,107	7,058	4,706	14,570
Rice	1,402	1,709	1,435	1,756	2,746

(1) Preliminary

In 1979, production in the agricultural sector registered slight decreases in volume and value, due to adverse weather conditions, including flooding, frost and drought, especially in the non-irrigated areas. In 1980, although the rainy season started a month later than expected, overall production was higher than in 1979, primarily due to emphasis on cultivation of irrigated areas and improved weather conditions.

The Government's policy accords the agricultural sector high national priority. An objective of the present Administration is to increase the efficiency of the agricultural sector by increasing the availability of credit, machinery, better seeds and fertilizer and by consolidating small plots into larger units of production.

Rural Development. In 1973, the Government began a nationwide programme for rural development called PIDER, to redistribute income and production capacity to poorer communities which have not been included in other programmes. PIDER has instituted numerous projects including irrigation, soil and water conservation, technical farming assistance, livestock development, fruit production, forestry and fishery development, feeder roads and rural electrification.

In addition COPLAMAR, a Government commission, coordinates and integrates various public programmes to develop targeted areas and to improve the living standards for those areas. During 1979 and 1980 COPLAMAR signed agreements with several Government agencies to operate 2,000 new medical units in rural areas, supply staple food products to more than 10 million persons, build new school facilities in 4,500 communities and provide suitable housing and a potable water supply in rural areas. It is expected that as a result of such agreements, 200,000 permanent jobs will be created in rural areas.

The Mexican Government has implemented an inter-agency programme called the Mexican Food Supply System ("SAM") to coordinate Government efforts aimed at ensuring sufficient production of foodstuffs and efficient distribution and marketing of such foodstuffs to lower income groups. SAM's programmes are intended to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency in the production of corn and beans in 1982 and of wheat, rice, safflower and sorghum in 1985. Fishing and fish-farming industries and meat production projects are also included in the programme's plans. In addition, the programme develops research projects to improve the processing and enrichment of agricultural products to satisfy nutritional needs.

SAM provides for Government sharing of the risks of agricultural production through an insurance programme and subsidising of fertilisers and special seeds for the targeted areas.

Fertilizantes Mexicanos ("Fertimex") is a government enterprise which promotes the expansion of fertiliser production and distribution, especially to non-irrigated arable land and areas included in the SAM programme. Fertimex has increased production of fertilisers from 1.8 million tons in 1976 to 2.4 million tons in 1980, a 7.5% compound annual growth rate, and the Government plans to invest an additional 17.8 billion pesos to increase production to 6.4 million tons by 1982. Mexico is at present virtually self-sufficient in the production of nitrogen-based fertilisers.

Mining

Mexico has substantial and varied mineral resources. It is the world's largest producer of silver and fluorite, the third largest producer of bauxite and antimony and the fourth largest producer of sulphur, lead and bismuth. Mexico's production of minerals satisfies most of its industrial needs and enables it to export silver, fluorite, bauxite, sulphur, lead and zinc. Mining accounted for 1.1% of GDP in 1979 and provided 5.6% of export earnings.

Under Constitutional provisions relating to Government ownership of subsurface resources, mining may only be carried on by the Government or under concessions granted to private Mexican enterprises which may have limited foreign participation. Mining companies, either privately-owned or with government participation, have initiated a series of large projects both to develop new mines and to enlarge and modernise existing facilities.

The production, value and revenues from export of the principal minerals are as follows:

	Mining				
	Unit	1976	1977	1978	1979
Gold	Kg.	5,064	6,616	6,283	5,911
Silver	Tons	1,256	1,463	1,579	1,477
Lead	Tons	164,873	163,479	170,333	173,458
Copper	Tons	88,970	89,662	87,186	87,009
Zinc	Tons	259,183	265,469	244,882	245,477
Coal	000 Tons	2,188	2,437	2,491	2,589
Iron	000 Tons	3,644	3,387	3,556	4,041
Sulphur	000 Tons	2,150	1,856	1,818	2,025
Fluorite	000 Tons	897	600	900	875

	Value of Production				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980(1)
Gold	331	721	876	1,353	2,631
Silver	2,083	4,938	6,338	12,443	22,557
Lead	1,256	2,421	2,401	4,120	3,333
Copper	1,678	2,515	2,669	4,591	8,608
Zinc	3,061	4,668	3,153	4,281	4,197
Coal	1,236	1,377	1,407	1,463	1,346
Iron	1,800	3,218	2,389	2,051	2,506
Sulphur	1,805	1,492	1,845	2,156	3,137
Fluorite	885	1,043	1,545	1,484	1,884

Value of Exports					
Year ended 31 December,					
Product	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980(1)
		(Thousands of Pounds)			
Silver	(2)	36,821.9	118,971.8	129,698.1	N.A.
Zinc	65,472.7	28,787.5	46,983.1	45,365.5	44,983.2
Lead	16,916.5	15,043.2	28,835.3	36,194.7	26,407.8
Sulphur	28,262.1	25,835.9	25,822.8	28,680.4	34,982.1
Fluorite	23,192.3	33,085.9	21,553.0	22,645.4	28,673.4
Salt	14,406.2	15,594.3	14,407.8	14,845.0	21,330.6
Copper	6,580.7	16,675.5	4,251.7	25,355.6	6,739.1

UNITED MEXICAN STATES continued

To improve living conditions for low income people and provide loans for property and housing at reasonable terms, the Federal Government established the Institute of the National Housing Fund for Wage-Earners ("Infonavit") in 1972. The fund managed by Infonavit is supported by contributions from all employers equivalent to 5% of all salaries paid. During 1980, Infonavit loaned approximately 17,277 million pesos for housing purchases, construction and repair.

General

The Federal Budget of the Mexican Government consists of revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government and of certain majority-owned governmental agencies whose particular budgets require specific legislative approval ("budget-controlled agencies"). Among the most important budget-controlled agencies are Pemex, Comision Federal de Electricidad, Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico and the social security and social welfare agencies. The Public Sector Budget consists of the Federal Budget and the budgets of the administratively-controlled agencies (principally Telefonos de Mexico, S.A., Altos Hornos de Mexico, S.A., the Mexico City subway and the national credit institutions), which are entities in which the Government, directly or indirectly, owns a majority interest and whose budgets are not subject to specific legislative approval. The revenues and expenditures of the administratively-controlled agencies are subject to secretarial review, and, as in the case of the budget-controlled agencies, appropriate Secretarial approval is required for such agencies to obtain financing.

The budget-controlled agencies and the administratively-controlled agencies pay taxes which are reflected in the revenues of the Federal Government. From time to time types of agencies may receive transfers for current expenditures from the Federal Government and appropriations for capital expenditures, which, when they occur, are reflected in the current or capital accounts of the Federal Budget.

The revenues and expenditures of only the most important administratively-controlled agencies are compiled for budget purposes, and, accordingly, the only figure reflecting the consolidated accounts of the entire public sector is the consolidated deficit figure for the Public Sector Budget. This figure is set forth below, together with an indication of its relationship in each year to the gross domestic product.

Public Sector Deficit

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Millions of Pesos)			
Public Sector Deficit	124.0	125.3	162.0	223.7
Gross Domestic Product (at current prices)	1,228.0	1,674.7	2,122.8	2,767.0
Public Sector Deficit as % of Gross Domestic Product	10.1%	7.5%	7.6%	8.1%

State and local government finance is regulated by the Mexican Constitution, which provides that state and local governments may not obtain financing in foreign currencies or from foreign governments, corporations or individuals.

The Federal Government may provide funds to state and local governments only for specific projects which will provide a satisfactory return on investment. For each project, the state and local governments are required to file reports with the Federal Government and to warrant that the project will provide the required return.

Budget Process

The Federal Government's fiscal year is a calendar year. The budget preparing process involves the participation and coordination on an overall and sectoral basis of all the Federal Secretariats and agencies. The Secretariat of Finance prepares the revenue bill which sets forth the revenues to be received by the Federal Government and budget-controlled agencies during the succeeding fiscal year. The various Secretariats prepare expenditure estimates for their own operations and all of the budget-controlled agencies under their jurisdiction, within the policy orientation and programme guidelines established by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget. These expenditure requests are then reviewed by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget which prepares the expenditure bill for the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies.

Upon enactment by both houses of the Congress, the revenue bill becomes the Annual Revenue Law, which provides the necessary authority for collecting taxes and other revenues and contracting loans. Upon enactment by the Chamber of Deputies, the expenditure bill becomes the Expenditure Budget, which provides the authority for incurring expenses.

After the Expenditure Budget has been approved, the President may authorise increased expenditures during the fiscal year as a result of increased revenues or for other reasons that he may consider suitable. The Expenditure Budget may also include provisions for the automatic increase of certain expenditures. These expenditure increases do not require prior legislative approval. Within twelve months after the end of the fiscal year, the official fiscal report of the Government is submitted to the review of the Chamber of Deputies.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government and the Budget-controlled Agencies

The following table sets forth the Federal Budget, which represents the revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies on a consolidated basis after netting out the effect of transfers between the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government and Budget-controlled Agencies

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Billions of Pesos)			
Revenues				
Current	321.2	454.0	605.5	835.7
Capital	14.5	29.8	27.3	32.7
Total Revenues	335.7	483.8	632.8	868.4
Expenditures				
Current	316.2	465.7	609.9	837.2
Capital	157.7	207.0	262.3	389.0
Total Expenditures	473.9	672.7	872.2	1,226.2
Adjustments				
Items in previous June budget payable in current	—	—	—	45.0
Items in current year budget payable in following year	—	—	—	(50.0)
Items in current year budget not expected to be spent	—	—	—	(34.7)
Deficit to be financed	138.2	128.9	119.4	179.4

The consolidated Federal Budget for 1980 shows a 37.3% increase over 1979 expenditures and a 40.2% increase over 1979 revenues. In 1981, the consolidated Federal Budget shows a 40.2% increase over 1980 budgeted expenditures and a 34.2% increase over 1980 budgeted revenues. The increased expenditures in 1980 and 1981 are principally attributable to the high rate of inflation and the rapid growth in public investment.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Budget-Controlled Agencies

Revenues of the Federal Government consist principally of income taxes imposed on businesses (including budget- and administratively-controlled agencies) and individuals, the Value Added Tax, duties on imports and exports and capital receipts. The expenditures of the Federal Government consist of current expenditures and capital expenditures, including allocations to budget- and administratively-controlled agencies.

The following table provides a summary of revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government for the years indicated:

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government (1)

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Millions of Pesos)			
Current Revenues				
Taxes on Income	39,668	46,378	66,410	98,466
Business Income	32,978	47,052	65,774	74,549
Personal Income	—	—	—	—
Total Taxes on Income	66,046	95,410	132,184	173,015
Other Taxes	—	—	—	—
Value Added Tax (2)	39,955	51,873	61,878	79,514
Excise Tax	—	—	—	—
Commercial Receipts	30,362	40,307	52,702	75,083
Import Duties	12,302	10,735	14,756	28,804
Export Duties	2,700	15,505	20,683	34,160
Other	5,414	5,936	8,781	10,912
Total Other Taxes	84,733	124,356	158,900	228,473
Total Current Revenues	150,779	219,766	291,084	401,488
Current Expenditures				
Direct Administrative	85,392	71,590	95,973	119,171
Public Debt Interest and Expense	21,059	33,856	41,737	56,625
Transfer Payments (consumer subsidies, social security payments, etc.) (3)	66,088	90,571	98,738	143,872
Other Current Expenditures	967	661	1,380	39,384
Total Current Expenditures	173,506	196,678	236,828	338,052

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Billions of Pesos)			
Surplus (Deficit) on Current Account	(12,645)	32,214	66,330	97,719
Capital Revenues (excluding proceeds of loans)	2,229	2,947	7,012	1,380
Capital Expenditures	(91,449)	(128,503)	(131,364)	(212,914)
Surplus (Deficit) on Capital Account	(89,220)	(125,556)	(124,352)	(211,534)
Budgetary Surplus (Deficit)	(101,863)	(93,342)	(58,002)	(113,835)
Adjustment to Cash Basis Items in Previous Year Budget Payable in Current Year	—	—	—	(45,000)
Items in Current Year Budget Payable in Following Year	—	—	—	50,000
Budgeted Amounts Not Expected To Be Spent	—	—	—	17,213
Deficit in Finance	(101,863)	(93,342)	(58,002)	(113,835)
Gross Borrowing	96,728	71,682	59,170	191,128
Internal	26,829	55,805	85,543	59,973
External	—	—	—	(2)
Total	123,557	127,487	144,713	251,101
Amortisation of Debt	(8,450)	(25,376)	(30,438)	(63,338)
Internal	(1,238)	(4,180)	(24,414)	(55,492)
External	—	—	—	—
Total (2)	(10,006)	(29,556)	(74,852)	(118,830)
Net Borrowing (3)	113,549	97,931	69,861	132,271
Surplus Including Net Borrowing	11,686	4,589	11,859	18,416

(1) The account of the Federal Government on a cash basis. The figures for the years 1976-1979 reflect the cash accounting for these years. The budgets for 1980 and 1981 are adjusted to a cash basis as indicated in the table.
(2) Details not shown in the annual revenue law.
(3) The Value Added Tax first came into effect in 1980 replacing the commercial taxes, excise and stamp taxes.
(4) Including taxes, levied in full or in part to the state governments as follows: 1976, \$2,454 million; 1977, \$2,809 million; 1978, \$2,825 million; 1979, \$2,825 million; 1980, \$2,825 million; 1981, \$2,825 million.
(5) Transfer payments include radioelectricity from current account to amortisation of debt.
(6) Net borrowing does not correspond to the increase in the direct debt; it does not show transactions such as the assumption by the Government of debt previously incurred by public agencies or adjustments for changes in exchange rates.

Current revenues of the Federal Government increased by 42.3% in 1977, 32.0% in 1978 and 38.1% in 1979 and were budgeted to increase by 38.0% in 1980 and 65.6% in 1981. Current expenditures rose by 13.3% in 1977, 19.9% in 1978 and 35.6% in 1979 and were budgeted to increase by 35.9% in 1980 and 90.2% in 1981. In 1977, the deficit decreased due to sharp increases in tax income derived from tax reforms which broadened the tax base, inflation and restricted Government expenditures. In 1978, the deficit decreased further, primarily as a result of high real growth in the economy and further increases in the tax base. In 1979, the deficit increased due to increased Government expenditures in the areas of development and conservation of natural resources, commerce and industry, and education and culture.

The rapid growth in budgeted revenues in 1980 and 1981 reflects the projected sharp increases in tax income derived from the imposition of the Value Added Tax and higher amounts of petroleum-related export duties. The rapid growth in budgeted expenditures in 1980 and 1981 reflects the Government's policy of stimulating the economy and providing a high rate of employment, additional expenditures in the energy and agricultural sectors and efforts to improve the infrastructure in the transportation sector.

The following table provides a breakdown of the current and capital expenditures of the Federal Government by sector for the years indicated:

Expenditures of the Federal Government by Sector

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Millions of Pesos)			
Transportation and Communications	21,631	24,633	25,210	40,279
Development and Conservation of Natural Resources	33,698	43,887	45,575	65,044
Commerce and Industry	78,331	88,126	97,637	79,745
Education and Culture	39,634	57,538	75,658	96,006
Hospital Services and Public Assistance	8,781	27,439	34,346	19,712
Social Security (1) (2)	14,331	32,477	7,176	10,017
National Defence	8,169	10,500	12,214	14,519
General Administration	38,921	41,946	97,418	150,636
Public Debt Interest and Expenses	21,059	33,856	41,727	56,624
Unallocated	—	—	—	—
Total Expenditures (including retirement of public debt)	264,955	325,161	367,183	532,582

(1) Until 31 December, 1977, the transfers from the Federal Government to social security agencies were included in this line. Transfers to the social security agencies since 1978 have been included in the appropriate service lines.
(2) Includes medical services for public employees, pension payments and other social services expenses.

The following table provides a breakdown of the current and capital expenditures of the Federal Government as budgeted for 1980 and 1981. The format of this table conforms to the changes in the budget presentation adopted by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget in 1980.

Expenditures of the Federal Government by Function

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Millions of Pesos)			
Central Public Activities (1)	370,140	315,277		
Sectoral Allocation				
Forestry and Agriculture	68,715	114,000		
Fishing	6,409	10,600		
Natural Resources (2)	50,469	110,000		
Manufacturing	13	2,700		
Transportation and Communications	52,615	85,000		
Commerce	28,727	52,000		
Tourism	4,182	7,000		
Science and Technology	6,473	14,500		
Financial Services	—	—		
Employment and Social Welfare	1,940	4,200		
Other State Agency Services (2)	—	—		
Total Sectoral Allocation	219,511	402,000		
Urban and Social Services	159,682	250,500		
Expenditures Not Assigned By Its Function	199,367	291,900		
Total Expenditures (3)	748,500	1,259,657		

(1) Includes general administration, justice, public security, defence and national security.
(2) Allocations to this sector, if any, will occur when annual expenditures are allocated.
(3) Excludes construction projects, which will increase to 250,000 in 1980 and 300,000 in 1981 respectively.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Budget-Controlled Agencies

The following table presents a summary of the revenues and expenditures of the budget-controlled agencies. The revenues and expenditures of the budget-controlled agencies include amounts received from and paid to the Federal Government.

Revenues and Expenditures of Budget-Controlled Agencies

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979
	(Millions of Pesos)			
Revenues by Agency				
Pemex	49,690	86,407	112,710	186,075
Electric Power Companies	24,731	29,571	34,518	44,218
Social Security Agencies	43,789	57,679	77,653	99,791
Other Agencies	55,007	78,108	98,684	119,615
Gross Proceeds of Loans	69,359	122,493	172,732	206,569
Total Revenues	242,657	374,458	498,317	626,257
Expenditures by Agency				
Pemex	70,633	138,025	192,632	268,560
Electric Power Companies	47,196	62,582	93,427	91,581
Social Security Agencies	46,103	62,207	76,620	106,334
Other Agencies	81,133	112,361	132,684	148,305
Total Expenditures	245,065	375,461	495,363	614,778

The revenues of the budget-controlled agencies grew at a compound annual rate of 37.1% in the 1976-1979 period. Revenues for 1980 were budgeted to increase 35.6% over 1979 and revenues for 1981 are budgeted to increase 5.6% over 1980. The high rate of growth in the revenues of the budget-controlled agencies is a result of an increase in the production and price of petroleum, inflation and rate increases adopted by the electric power companies.

The expenditures of the budget-controlled agencies grew at a compound annual rate of 35.9% in the 1976-1979 period. Expenditures for 1980 were budgeted to increase 37.2% over 1979 and expenditures for 1981 are budgeted to increase 5.6% over 1980.

Mexico's Federal tax structure establishes both direct taxation through income taxes and indirect taxation through a value added tax.

Income taxes are composed of the enterprise tax and the individual tax. Enterprises and individuals with income derived from the exploitation of natural resources, commerce, manufacturing, agriculture, fishing or raising livestock are subject to the enterprise tax. The enterprise tax is levied at progressive rates that reach a 42% ceiling when income, after certain deductions and allowances, exceeds 1,500,000 pesos per year. The individual tax applies to income obtained from the following sources, among others: wages, fees, rental of property,

dividends and interest. Individual tax rates are also progressive and reach a 55% ceiling when income, after deductions, exceeds 2,500,000 pesos annually.

The Value Added Tax Law, which took effect on 1 January 1980, imposes a general 10% rate which is passed through the manufacturing and distributing chain until it becomes part of the purchase price to the consumer. Food and other products associated with agriculture and livestock raising are exempt from the tax.

A number of tax reforms have been instituted over the past two years aimed chiefly at promoting industrial development. Included among these reforms were more liberal treatment for financial leases, faster depreciation of fixed assets, special tax credits for investment in specified types of machinery, withholding tax exemption on interest income on external borrowings by the Federal Government, coordination of indirect taxation by the State and Federal Governments to avoid double taxation and the modification of withholding taxes on external borrowings.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Under the Organic Law of the Federal Public Administration enacted in 1976, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit is responsible for the coordination, supervision and formulation of policy for the financial system of Mexico.

Central Bank and Monetary Policy
Banco de Mexico, S.A., chartered in 1925, is the central bank and sole bank of issue. Its functions are established by its Organic Law enacted by the Federal Congress in 1941. At 31 December, 1980, Banco de Mexico had total assets of 722.5 billion pesos.

Banco de Mexico is the Government's primary instrument for the execution of monetary policy and the regulation of currency and credit. It is authorised by law to regulate interest rates payable on time deposits, to establish minimum reserve requirements which credit institutions are required to maintain and to provide discount facilities for certain types of bank loans. Through these means, Banco de Mexico regulates loan operations and investments of banks and instrumental in channelling financial resources into selected areas of the economy.

The objective of the current monetary policy of the Government is to promote investment while controlling inflationary pressures. To accomplish these goals, Banco de Mexico has lifted controls on interest rates for certain peso deposits and is committed to maintaining a positive differential between domestic and foreign interest rates in favour of Mexico to ensure a continuous inflow of capital.

In accordance with legal requirements, Banco de Mexico, in order to support the value of the peso, must maintain a legal reserve equal to at least 25% of its total outstanding bank notes and sight obligations. At least 80% of such reserve must consist of gold or foreign exchange and the remainder must be silver.

The following table sets forth the money supply at the dates indicated:

Money Supply

	As of 31 December			
	1975	1976	1977	1978
	(Billions of Pesos)			
Notes and Coin	52,264	79,873	88,633	114,810
Checking Deposits	66,003	74,927	107,376	145,190
Total Money Supply in Circulation	118,267	154,800	196,009	260,000

(1) Preliminary.
(2) Final figure.

The constraints within which monetary policy has had to operate in the past two years, i.e. expensive fiscal policy aimed at increasing economic activity and lowering the unemployment rate, higher demand for credit by the private sector, and an increased proportion of financial resources held in demand deposits, have all contributed to an increase in the money supply.

Banking System

Private Financial Institutions. The country's private banking system at 31 December, 1980 included 11 deposit banks, 35 multi-service banks, 9 financial banks, 2 credit mortgage institutions, and 6 long-term credit banks. Assets of all private financial institutions totalled 1,224,265 million pesos at 31 December, 1980.

Public Financial Institutions. In addition to the Banco de Mexico and the private financial institutions described above, there are 22 national credit institutions which have been created by the Federal Government to assist or serve specific sectors of the Mexican economy. The total assets of these institutions amounted to 611,661 million pesos as of 31 December, 1980. The majority of their capital is subscribed by the Federal Government or by public agencies (including other national credit institutions) and they operate as administratively-controlled agencies under the supervision of the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit in accordance with specific statutes. Most public credit institutions control trust funds which are used for promoting specific sectors, such as agriculture, housing, tourism, industry and exports under preferential conditions.

Among the most important of such national credit institutions are Nacional Financiera, S.A. ("Nafin"), Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Publicos, S.A. ("Banobras"), Banco Nacional de Credito Rural, S.A. ("Banrural"), Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, S.A. ("Bancomext"), Financiera Nacional Azucarera, S.A. ("Finasa") and Banco Nacional Pesquero Portuario, S.A. ("Banpesca").

Nafinsa serves as the Government's principal instrument for the development of the economic infrastructure and basic industries necessary for the country's growth by extending long and medium-term credits and by making equity investments. At present, Nafinsa holds the majority equity interest in Altos Hornos de Mexico, S.A., the country's largest steel producer, Fertilizantes Mexicanos, S.A., the principal producer of fertiliser, Diesel Nacional, S.A., a major producer of motor vehicles, and ten other industrial companies.

Banobras extends loans to the Federal and State Governments as well as to the Federal District for the financing of public works and services. It also owns and finances housing for lower income people. Bancomext raises short-term external loans and

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

Financial Times Tuesday September 15 1981

WORLD VALUE OF THE POUND

The table below gives the latest available rate of exchange for the pound against various currencies on September 14 1981. In some cases rates are nominal. Market rates are the average of buying and selling rates except where they are shown to be otherwise. In some cases market rates have been calculated from those of foreign currencies to which they are tied. Abbreviations: (A) approximate rate, (B) bankers' rates, (C) commercial rates, (D) discount rates, (E) exchange rates, (F) financial rates, (G) government rates, (H) hotel rates, (I) industrial rates, (J) international rates, (K) local rates, (L) local rates, (M) local rates, (N) local rates, (O) local rates, (P) local rates, (Q) local rates, (R) local rates, (S) local rates, (T) local rates, (U) local rates, (V) local rates, (W) local rates, (X) local rates, (Y) local rates, (Z) local rates.

PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING
Afghanistan (Afghani)	101.00	Greenland (Danish Kroner)	13.355	Peru (Sol)	15.95
Algeria (Dinar)	10.15	Grenada (G.D.)	4.85	Philippines (Philippine Peso)	15.95
Angola (Escudo)	10.15	Guadeloupe (Local Franc)	10.15	Pitcairn Islands (New Zealand \$)	2.1705
Andorra (French Franc)	10.15	Guatemala (Quetzal)	1.7950	Poland (Zloty)	17.04.16
Angola (Kwanza)	10.15	Guinea (Guinean Franc)	69.40	Portugal (Portuguese Escudo)	112.70
Antigua (E. Caribbean \$)	10.15	Guyana (Guyanese \$)	5.310	Puerto Rico (U.S. \$)	1.7950
Argentina (A.P. \$)	10.15	Haiti (Gourde)	8.275	Qatar (Qatar Riyal)	6.51
Australia (A. \$)	10.15	Honduras (Honduran Lempira)	5.85	Romania (Romanian Leu)	10.15
Austria (Schilling)	10.15	Hong Kong (H.K. \$)	10.15	Rwanda (Rwandan Franc)	10.15
Azores (Portuguese Escudo)	10.15	Hungary (Forint)	10.15	S. Christopher (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bahamas (B. Dollar)	10.15	India (Indian Rupee)	10.15	St. Helena (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bahrain (Bahraini Dinar)	10.15	Indonesia (Rupiah)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bangladesh (Taka)	10.15	Iran (Iranian Rial)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Barbados (B. Dollar)	10.15	Iraq (Iraqi Dinar)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Belgium (B. Franc)	10.15	Israel (Israeli Sheqel)	10.15	St. Martin (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Belize (Belize Dollar)	10.15	Italy (Italian Lira)	10.15	St. Pierre (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bermuda (B. Dollar)	10.15	Jamaica (Jamaican Dollar)	10.15	St. Thomas (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bhutan (Bhutanese Ngultrum)	10.15	Japan (Japanese Yen)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bolivia (Bolivian Peso)	10.15	Jordan (Jordanian Dinar)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Bosnia (Bosnian Mark)	10.15	Kampuchea (Riel)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Brazil (Brazilian Real)	10.15	Korea (Korean Won)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Brunei (Brunei Dollar)	10.15	Kuwait (Kuwaiti Dinar)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Burma (Burmese Kyat)	10.15	Laos (New Kip)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Burundi (Burundian Franc)	10.15	Lebanon (Lebanese Lira)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cameroon (C.F.A. Franc)	10.15	Libya (Libyan Dinar)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Canada (Canadian Dollar)	10.15	Liechtenstein (Swiss Franc)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cape Verde (Cape Verde Escudo)	10.15	Luxembourg (Luxembourg Franc)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cayman Islands (Cayman Dollar)	10.15	Madagascar (Malagasy Franc)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cebu (Cebu Peso)	10.15	Malawi (Malawi Shilling)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Chad (C.F.A. Franc)	10.15	Malaysia (Malaysian Ringgit)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Chile (Chilean Peso)	10.15	Maldives (Maldivian Rufiyaa)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
China (Renminbi Yuan)	10.15	Mali (Mali Franc)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Colombia (Colombian Peso)	10.15	Malta (Maltese Lira)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Comoros (Comorian Franc)	10.15	Marshall Islands (Marshall Dollar)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Congo (Congo Franc)	10.15	Mauritania (Mauritanian Ouguiya)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Costa Rica (Costa Rican Colon)	10.15	Mexico (Mexican Peso)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cuba (Cuban Peso)	10.15	Morocco (Moroccan Dirham)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Cyprus (Cypriot Pound)	10.15	Mozambique (Mozambique Escudo)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Czechoslovakia (Czech Koruna)	10.15	Nepal (Nepalese Rupee)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Denmark (Danish Kroner)	10.15	Netherlands (Dutch Guilder)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Dominica (E. Caribbean \$)	10.15	New Zealand (N.Z. Dollar)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Dominican Republic (Dominican Peso)	10.15	Nicaragua (Nicaraguan Cordoba)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Ecuador (Ecuadorian Dollar)	10.15	Niger (Nigerian CFA Franc)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Egypt (Egyptian Pound)	10.15	Nigeria (Nigerian Naira)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Equatorial Guinea (Equatorial Guinean Franc)	10.15	Oman (Omani Rial)	10.15	St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Ethiopia (Ethiopian Birr)	10.15	Pakistan (Pakistan Rupee)	10.15	St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Falkland Islands (Falkland \$)	10.15	Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinean Kina)	10.15	St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Faroe Islands (Faroese Krona)	10.15	Paraguay (Paraguayan Guarani)	10.15	St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Finland (Finnish Markka)	10.15			St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
France (French Franc)	10.15			St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
French Polynesia (C.F.P. Franc)	10.15			St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Gabon (Gabon CFA Franc)	10.15			St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Gambia (Gambian Dalasi)	10.15			St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Germany (West) (Deutsch Mark)	10.15			St. John (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Ghana (Ghana Cedi)	10.15			St. Kitts (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Gibraltar (Gibraltar Pound)	10.15			St. Lucia (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85
Greece (Greek Drachma)	10.15			St. Vincent (E. Caribbean \$)	4.85

*That part of the French community in Africa formerly French West Africa or French Equatorial Africa. †Rupees per pound. ‡General rates of oil and iron exports 75.40. **Rate is the transfer market (controlled). ††Rate is based on 2 Barbados \$ to the dollar. ‡‡How one official rate. (U) Unfixed rate. Applicable on all transactions except countries having a bilateral agreement with Egypt and who are not members of IMF. (I) Based on gross rate ignoring Russian ruble. (1) Official rates for government transactions and specified exports and imports. (2) Parallel rates for non-government transactions and non-specified exports and imports. (3) Parallel exchange rate for essential imports. (4) Exports, non-essential imports and transfers.

£ and \$ ease

Sterling lost ground in currency markets yesterday although there were no new factors to affect trading. Interest in the pound was minimal for much of the day. Sterling recovered later in the day as domestic interest rates rose following signals from the Bank of England that higher interest rates were now necessary to achieve monetary aims and in view of sterling's current weakness.

The dollar was weaker against most currencies reflecting a softer trend in U.S. interest rates after Friday's U.S. money supply figures. The Italian Lira and Danish kroner were both weaker in the European Monetary System yesterday, while other currencies showed little change. The devaluation of the Swedish krona led to speculation that some sort of currency realignment within the EMS could take place. The D-mark remained the strongest currency and the Belgian franc the weakest.

STERLING — trade weighted index (Bank of England) fell to 87.0 from 87.5, having stood at 87.0 at noon and 87.4 in the morning. Sterling recovered during the afternoon on expectations of higher domestic interest rates. Against the dollar it closed at 1.7950, a rise of 1/16, having touched a low of 1.7880 during the afternoon. Against the D-mark it sank to DM 2.3740 at one point, but recovered to close at DM 2.4250 from DM 2.3740 on Friday. It finished at SwFr 3.6525 against the Swiss franc from SwFr 3.6525.

DOLLAR — trade weighted index (Bank of England) fell to 110.1 from 110.6. The dollar fell during the morning but recovered ground in the afternoon. Against the D-mark it finished at DM 2.3740 from DM 2.4010 and SwFr 2.0310 from SwFr 2.0540. In terms of the

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept 14	Day's spread	Close	One month	Three months	6 months
U.S.	1.7880-1.7890	1.7950	0.40-0.50c	-0.30-0.40c	-0.20-0.30c
Canada	2.1200-2.1210	2.1275	1.10-1.20c	-0.30-0.40c	-0.20-0.30c
Netherlands	1.62-1.63	1.63	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Belgium	33.12-33.13	33.13	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Denmark	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
France	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Germany	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Italy	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Japan	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Spain	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Sweden	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Switzerland	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
U.K.	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept 14	Day's spread	Close	One month	Three months	6 months
U.S.	1.7880-1.7890	1.7950	0.40-0.50c	-0.30-0.40c	-0.20-0.30c
Canada	2.1200-2.1210	2.1275	1.10-1.20c	-0.30-0.40c	-0.20-0.30c
Netherlands	1.62-1.63	1.63	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Belgium	33.12-33.13	33.13	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Denmark	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
France	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Germany	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Italy	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Japan	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Spain	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Sweden	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
Switzerland	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c
U.K.	1.1300-1.1310	1.1310	0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c	-0.10-0.20c

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Sept 14	Bank of England	Morgan Guaranty	Sept 11	Bank of England	Morgan Guaranty
Sterling	87.0	87.5	Sterling	87.0	87.5
U.S. dollar	110.1	110.6	U.S. dollar	110.1	110.6
Canadian dollar	88.5	89.0	Canadian dollar	88.5	89.0
French franc	108.4	108.9	French franc	108.4	108.9
German D-Mark	108.4	108.9	German D-Mark	108.4	108.9
Italian Lira	108.4	108.9	Italian Lira	108.4	108.9
Japanese Yen	108.4	108.9	Japanese Yen	108.4	108.9
Swiss Franc	108.4	108.9	Swiss Franc	108.4	108.9
Spanish Peseta	108.4	108.9	Spanish Peseta	108.4	108.9
Portuguese Escudo	108.4	108.9	Portuguese Escudo	108.4	108.9
Belgian Franc	108.4	108.9	Belgian Franc	108.4	108.9
Dutch Guilder	108.4	108.9	Dutch Guilder	108.4	108.9
Australian Dollar	108.4	108.9	Australian Dollar	108.4	108.9
New Zealand Dollar	108.4	108.9	New Zealand Dollar	108.4	108.9
South African Rand	108.4	108.9	South African Rand	108.4	108.9
Israeli Sheqel	108.4	108.9	Israeli Sheqel	108.4	108.9
Indian Rupee	108.4	108.9	Indian Rupee	108.4	108.9
Pakistani Rupee	108.4	108.9	Pakistani Rupee	108.4	108.9
Sri Lankan Rupee	108.4	108.9	Sri Lankan Rupee	108.4	108.9
Thai Baht	108.4	108.9	Thai Baht	108.4	108.9
Singapore Dollar	108.4	108.9	Singapore Dollar	108.4	108.9
Malaysian Ringgit	108.4	108.9	Malaysian Ringgit	108.4	108.9
Indonesian Rupiah	108.4	108.9	Indonesian Rupiah	108.4	108.9
Philippine Peso	108.4	108.9	Philippine Peso	108.4	108.9
Thai Baht	108.4	108.9	Thai Baht	108.4	108.9
Singapore Dollar	108.4	108.9	Singapore Dollar	108.4	108.9
Malaysian Ringgit	108.4	108.9	Malaysian Ringgit	108.4	108.9
Indonesian Rupiah	108.4	108.9	Indonesian Rupiah	108.4	108.9
Philippine Peso	108.4	108.9	Philippine Peso	108.4	108.9

OTHER CURRENCIES

Sept 14	Bank of England	Morgan Guaranty	Sept 11	Bank of England	Morgan Guaranty
Argentine Peso	9783.9773	9783.9773	Argentine Peso	9783.9773	9783.9773
Australian Dollar	1.5555-1.5575	1.5555-1.5575	Australian Dollar	1.5555-1.5575	1.5555-1.5575
Brazilian Real	100.00-100.00	100.00-100.00	Brazilian Real	100.00-100.00	100.00-100.00
Canadian Dollar	88.5-89.0	88.5-89.0	Canadian Dollar	88.5-89.0	88.5-89.0
French Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	French Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
German D-Mark	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	German D-Mark	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Italian Lira	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Italian Lira	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Japanese Yen	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Japanese Yen	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Swiss Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Swiss Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Spanish Peseta	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Spanish Peseta	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Portuguese Escudo	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Portuguese Escudo	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Belgian Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Belgian Franc	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Dutch Guilder	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Dutch Guilder	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Australian Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Australian Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
New Zealand Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	New Zealand Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
South African Rand	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	South African Rand	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Israeli Sheqel	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Israeli Sheqel	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Indian Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Indian Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Pakistani Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Pakistani Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Sri Lankan Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Sri Lankan Rupee	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Thai Baht	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Thai Baht	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Singapore Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Singapore Dollar	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Malaysian Ringgit	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Malaysian Ringgit	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Indonesian Rupiah	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Indonesian Rupiah	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9
Philippine Peso	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9	Philippine Peso	108.4-108.9	108.4-108.9

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency annual against ECU September 14	% change central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	40.7585	40.6244	-0.30	+1.06	-1.5381
Danish Krone	7.46177	7.46350	-1.88	-0.32	-1.6413
German D-Mark	2.45636	2.45622	-0.01	+1.10	-1.5910
French Franc	5.95226	5.95440	-0.68	+0.68	-1.3638
Dutch Guilder	2.18318	2.17416	-2.45	-1.09	-1.5159
Italian Lira	0.009474	0.009392	-0.91	+0.76	-1.6688
Italian Lire	233.757	235.487	-0.77	-0.28	-1.5116

Early Wall St retreat of 7.3

Effect of 70

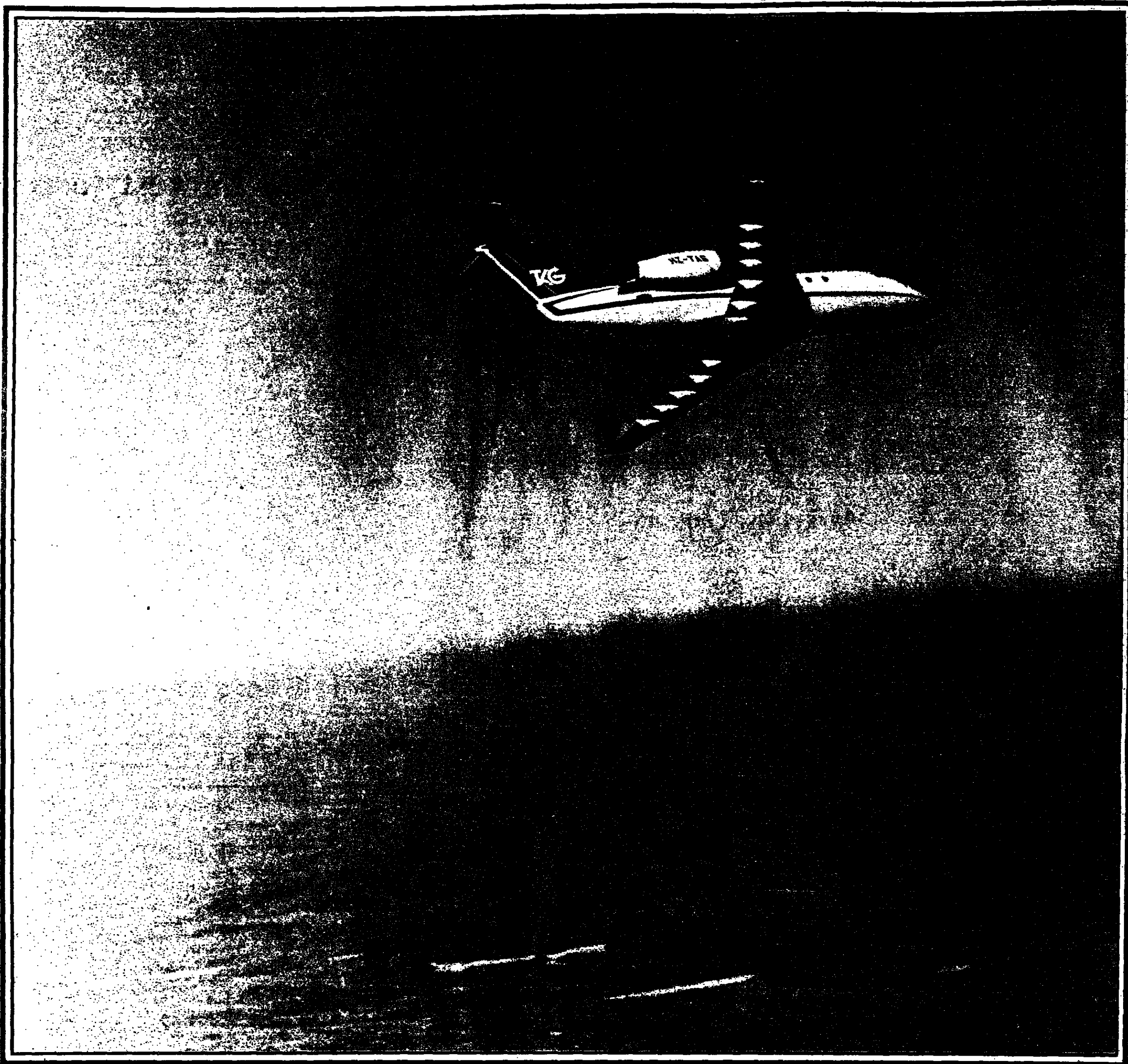
[illegible]

111	-0.5		H.K. 9	-	DBS
181	-1.6	Cheung Kong	27.9	+0.6	Fras Haw

[illegible]

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

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Companies and Markets

Nickel
pay offer
vote

By Our Commodities Staff

INTERNATIONAL Nickel workers at the company's Thompson, Manitoba, plant were voting yesterday to decide whether or not to accept the company's "final offer" on the terms of new labour contracts.

Existing three-year contracts expire today, but talks have been going on since July seeking to agree terms of new contracts, although the union has been pressing for them to last for only one year instead of three.

Inco, proposing terms for new three-year contracts to the 1,900 workers at Thompson, claimed the offer was the largest wage and benefit package ever offered to Inco workers anywhere. The wage of the average worker would be raised from \$11.10 to \$16.80 an hour by September 1984, assuming cost-of-living adjustments at the current 13 per cent inflation rate.

Reuter reported from Thompson that leaders of the union (the United Steelworkers of America) are recommending rejection of the offer.

The Thompson complex accounts for about a third of Inco's total production. Labour contracts at the Sudbury plant, the main production unit, do not expire until next summer.

Kenya coffee
surplus tops
1m bags

NAIROBI—Kenya has a coffee surplus of more than 1m bags (60 kilos each), the Coffee Board said here yesterday.

Kenya exhausted its 1.6m bags export quota allocated by the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) last July. Its quota for the year ending in October was originally 1.3m bags but was cut by 140,000 bags during the year as part of an effort to curb falling prices.

The board said some of the surplus coffee would be sold in non-quota markets at prices lower than prevailing market prices.

Coffee dealers are also buying some of the surplus to be delivered later as part of Kenya's export quota for the 1981-82 season.

Strong advance in copper

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

COPPER PRICES advanced strongly on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Although some of the earlier gains were shed in late trading, cash wirebonds closed \$15.25 up at \$98.5 a tonne after ending the morning session at \$97.95. The three months quotation for high-grade copper topped \$1,000 in the morning before closing at \$99.5 a tonne, \$14.75 up on Friday's close.

Further reductions in U.S. interest rates, the rise in gold, a strike threat in Canada, and a hefty fall in Metal Exchange warehouse stocks all helped encourage buying interest in early trading. But profit-taking sales came in later as gold eased.

It was reported from Quebec that negotiations over the terms of new contracts for workers at Noranda's Horne copper

smelter had been recessed and a strike vote may be taken shortly. The smelter has an annual production capacity of more than 200,000 tonnes.

London Metal Exchange warehouse stock figures issued yesterday showed that copper holdings fell last week by 2,700 tonnes to 111,750 tonnes. Zinc stocks were also down by 900 to 86,000 tonnes and lead by 600 to 43,650 tonnes.

However, tin stocks jumped by 710 tonnes to a record total of 13,600 tonnes. It is believed that the buffer stock of the International Tin Council has been selling tin steadily in recent weeks to help stabilise the market.

Over the weekend the Straits Tin price rose by 18 cents to a new peak of 35.35 Malaysian ringgits—only 12 cents below the Tin Agreement "ceiling"

where the buffer stock is supposed to sell all the tin it holds. The rise in stocks, and the selling by the buffer stock, has helped keep London values in check, but it is understood the bulk of LME stocks are held by industrial dealers, currently controlling the market. A supply squeeze could develop in October if delivery is taken of forward purchases, and the stocks taken off the market.

Rumours on Friday that the Malaysian Mining Corporation was planning to cut deliveries as a result of damage to pipelines were discounted yesterday and prices ended barely changed. Other metals also closed little changed after shedding early gains. Aluminium stocks in LME warehouses rose by 1,975 to 90,775 tonnes; nickel by 435 to 2,916 tonnes, and LME silver holdings increased by 200,000 to 28,800,000 ounces.

Membership could also give EEC governments a lever over their domestic producers, so as to curb back output and reduce surpluses.

Traditionally, France, a big sugar beet producer, has resisted any such moves. The question now is whether the new French Government attaches to better north-south relations will bring any important change of position by Paris.

EEC delays sugar pact decision

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

EEC FOREIGN ministers yesterday shelved until next month a decision on whether the Community should start negotiations on joining the International Sugar Agreement.

Unsurprisingly, France emerged as having the strongest opposition, although her Minister for European Affairs, M. André Chenu, did not challenge the view argued by the British and Dutch governments that the issue of ISA membership was a matter of great political importance.

Supported by the European Commission, they claimed that membership would strengthen the credibility of the Community's commitment to improving north-south relations. The ISA exists largely to stabilise world sugar prices in times of over-supply through implementation of international quotas.

However, a decision to negotiate would not be intended to imply any prior commitment by the EEC to join the ISA, but would seek instead to establish whether acceptable terms for the Community's sugar exports could be secured.

The current agreement expires next year and the supporters of membership want the EEC to be in the ring when the International Sugar Council meets in November to consider the future of the

arrangement. It is suggested that the forecast size of the Community's export surplus over the next nine months—between 5m and 6m tonnes of sugar, compared to recent annual averages of 3m to 4m tonnes—could persuade the developing country members of the ISA to grant a favourable quota so as to remove some of the weight of this overhang on currently depressed world prices.

Market rise continues

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

LAST WEEK'S upturn in world sugar values continued yesterday with rumoured Russian buying remaining the main encouragement. The January position on the London futures market ended the day \$11.75 higher at \$174 a tonne.

Reports that hot dry weather had done more damage to the Soviet crop than had been thought earlier also influenced the rise, as did indications that the EEC was seriously examining the possibility of joining the International Sugar Agreement. The weakness of sterling was a background feature, dealers said.

But the upsurge probably

owed more to the reaction against the recent steep decline, they added. This had left the market oversold and encouraged speculators to look for excuses to buy.

Latest reports in the Soviet Press refer to patchy growth and "negative effects" on sugar beet growth following hot, dry weather earlier this summer. Subsequent heavy rain has worsened matters by encouraging strong leaf growth, they add.

Prospects of bumper crops in Europe, including Russia, had been largely responsible for the sharp decline which wiped more than \$50 a tonne of world sugar prices in late summer.

Legal threat
to U.S.
options plan

By Nancy Dunne in Washington

THE AMERICAN Stock Exchange last Friday threatened to sue the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to halt the commission's proposed commodities futures options programme. It has contended that the plan is discriminatory, contrary to the best interests of the public, and in excess of the commission's statutory authority.

Amex, which wants permission to sell options on gold and silver denominated notes, would not be included in the programme. Thus far, CFTC would only allow options on those commodities for which there exists an underlying futures contract. The commission has a plan for selling options on physicals under study, but it is unlikely that options on physicals could be traded by next spring when the futures option programme is expected to begin.

In any case, because of the jurisdictional dispute, it is not clear whether the CFTC or the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) is the proper agency to approve Amex commodity options trading.

Amex contends that the proposed programme is anticompetitive because it excludes those exchanges which do not trade futures but do trade physicals.

The CFTC says the Amex suit is premature, and that a programme for physicals options will not likely be instituted as soon as possible.

Head of new
fish authority
named

By Our Commodities Staff

MR PHILIP RETTIE, chairman of William Low, the food retail chain, is to be chairman of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, which will take over the combined roles of the White Fish Authority (WFA) and the Herring Industry Board on October 1.

The appointment, announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries yesterday, reflects the greater emphasis being placed on marketing in the Government's approach to the food producing industries.

Canada grain strike peace hope

BY VICTOR MACKIE IN OTTAWA

GRAIN SHOULD be soon flowing again through the eastern Canadian port of Thunder Bay after a tentative agreement reached at the weekend with striking grain handlers.

The agreement, to be ratified over the next two days, by the 1,600 grain workers, was reached after two days of talks directed by the federal government mediator,

Mr William Kelly. "There will be a ratification vote early this week and we will recommend acceptance," said Mr Frank Mason, general chairman of the Canadian Lakehead Grain Handlers' Union.

Mr Mason said the workers should resume work later this week. He refused along with company officials to reveal details about the tentative two-year contract. The grain

workers' old contract expired on January 31. The strike began on September 1 when picketing began at the Cargill Grain terminal and spread the next day to the other five companies closing down the Thunder Bay grain port, the largest in Canada.

The Canadian Wheat Board estimates the strike has cost farmers \$10m a day in lost sales.

Record harvest forecast

CANADA EXPECTS record wheat, barley, rye and maize crops this year, according to figures prepared by the agriculture statistics division of Statistics Canada.

Its report predicted a record all wheat output of 87.5m bushels, record barley output of 61.5m bushels, record rye output of 37.4m bushels and record oat output of 219.8m bushels. But 1981 rapped seed production will be the lowest since 1976, the report said.

Meanwhile in Brussels, the EEC cereals harvest was forecast at 119.5m tonnes this year, down some 5 per cent from last year's 125.4m, according to the EEC farmers' organisation COA.

The forecast which was worked out in conjunction with the EEC Commission, predicted that France would produce 6 per cent less; Germany 5.7 per cent less; UK 3.5 per cent, Italy 2 per cent, Denmark 0.6 per cent, Greece 6 per cent, Belgium 8 per cent and the Netherlands 4 per cent.

Only Ireland and Luxembourg were expected to harvest more than per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

EEC cereals available for export in the 1981-82 season are expected to remain at around last year's levels of 13.5m tonnes of wheat and 4.7m tonnes of barley, COPA said.

Farmers in the U.S. are expected to harvest record crops of maize, wheat, and soyabean this year, the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

In its latest crop production report, based on September 1 conditions, the USDA said the 1981 maize crop is now forecast at a record 7.88bn bushels, 3 per cent above the August estimate and 19 per cent above last year's drought-reduced crop.

Total wheat production is indicated at 2.37bn bushels, up fractionally from August and 16 per cent above the previous record crop produced last year, USDA said.

Soyabean output is forecast at 2.09bn bushels, up 4 per cent from the August estimate and 15 per cent more than last year.

The U.S. Agriculture Department forecast total grain production in 1981-82 at a record 1.62bn tonnes which is unchanged from its projection made in August, but up 4 per cent from the 1980-81 output.

In the latest crop report based on September 1 conditions, the department lowered its world wheat output estimate slightly but raised its world rice and oilseed forecasts.

USDA put world wheat production in 1981-82 at 451m tonnes, 2.5 per cent above the 1980-81 output.

The department lowered its estimate of Western Europe and

Soviet wheat crops each by 2m tonnes from the August forecast. It also slightly reduced its projection of Eastern European wheat production.

Favourable weather boosted rice crop prospects in China and Indonesia, the department noted.

India's winter crops including rice, the department said, will fail early in 1981/82 (June-July) targets because of the virtual disappearance of the monsoon from northern India, the Press Trust of India said.

Winter crop output is targeted to rise to 83m tonnes, including 58m tonnes of rice, in the current year from provisional official estimates of 80m tonnes total output, and 52m tonnes of rice last year.

Total foodgrain production, including summer crops, is planned to rise to 88.5m tonnes in 1981/82 season against 133m last year.

Reuter

Cotton crop prospects up

WASHINGTON

World cotton production in 1981-82 is estimated at a record 70.6m bales, up 1m bales from last month due to improved crop prospects in the U.S. and China, the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

Production at the expected level would be 5.3m bales above last season and the largest world cotton crop since 1953, USDA said in the world crop report.

U.S. cotton exports reached 5.6m bales in the 1980-81 (August-September) year, down 36 per cent from 1979-80 exports, the Department said.

In a foreign agricultural circular on cotton exports, USDA said in spite of the crop, cotton

exports fared relatively well, in the face of adverse trading conditions. High U.S. cotton prices, due to a short crop, a stagnant world economy and high interest rates, were responsible for the decline.

The maintained its approximate 30 per cent share of the world cotton market during the year, while a larger percentage of U.S. cotton went to Asia than in previous years, USDA said.

U.S. cotton export activity is expected to improve in 1981-82, with prospects of a record cotton crop holding prices down, USDA said.

The department is currently forecasting U.S. 1981-82 cotton exports at 6.7m bales.

BRITISH COMMODITY MARKETS

BASE METALS

BASE METAL PRICES closed well below the day's highs on the London Metal Exchange. COPPER advanced to \$1010 in the morning, reflecting earlier American interest rates, the initial rise in precious metals and the decline in sterling, which encouraged substantial short covering and charter buying. The market came under sustained pressure in the afternoon, however, as a poor opening in New York prompted heavy profit-taking and caused the market to slide to the close. Other metals traded in a similar pattern. LEAD closed at \$407, after \$470, ZINC at \$255.5, after \$250, ALUMINIUM at \$285.5, NICKEL at \$252.5 and TIN at \$2275.

COPPER: a.m. + or - p.m. + or -

Wirebars 975.5-1010.5 968.9-1013.5 3 months 975.5-1010.5 968.9-1013.5 6 months 975.5-1010.5 968.9-1013.5 12 months 975.5-1010.5 968.9-1013.5

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars traded at \$278.5, higher than three months \$270.5, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 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The Morgan Bank

BORROWER PROFILE

Ankara moves towards a better rating

BY METIN MUNIR IN ISTANBUL

OVER THE past year Turkey made significant progress towards establishing domestic stability and putting its economy in order. Yet there has been little corresponding improvement in its international creditworthiness.

The country is still near the bottom of the international credit rating list, to where it slipped nearly four years ago when the Government found itself unable to pay suppliers, and service its debts. However, there are signs of improvement which indicate that before the end of the year Turkey may move higher up the list.

Furthermore, bankers believe that if the present economic performance is sustained over the next 12 months the market may respond favourably to approaches from Turkey.

The Turkish central bank has retained the services of Kuhn Loeb, Lazard Freres, and Warburgs to help it eventually approach the market for syndicated loans. This year is likely to prove the best for the economy since 1977. Most economic indicators are positive.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 4 per cent, compared to stagnant growth in 1979 and negative in 1980. Exports, which seem to be experiencing a mini boom, are likely to increase by as much as 44 per cent, reaching \$4.2bn. Workers' remittances are expected to grow by 25 per cent reaching \$2.4bn. Capacity

utilisation at an estimated 55 per cent is still low but higher than last year by about 5 per cent. There is also modest revival in investment activity, encouraged by growing business confidence and an increase in public and private savings.

A more problematical area is government finances and borrowing requirements of the inefficient State Economic Enterprises (SEEs). A major tax reform has been successfully carried through. But despite forecasts of a doubling of tax receipts, revenue may be insufficient to meet the public borrowing requirements.

Turkey's total disbursed external debt was around \$17.8bn at the end of 1980 but presents a less disturbing picture than it did several years ago. Ankara signed a series of debt reschedulings with the countries of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and commercial banks and has put forward a scheme for dissolving its non-guaranteed trade arrears to suppliers.

As a consequence, total short-term disbursed debts decreased to \$2.4bn from \$6.1bn, and medium- and long-term debts increased to \$15.3bn from \$9.5bn.

Turkey is not taking further steps to improve its debt structure. It has nearly completed renegotiating the terms on \$3.2bn-worth of commercial debt signed in 1979. This debt

was made up of a fresh money loan, existing short-term loans and overdrafts. The initial terms were for repayment over seven years with a three-year grace period. It is now to be repaid over 10 years with a five-year grace period—once the remaining three clients of about 240 banks agree. The cost of servicing medium- and long-term debt this year is forecast at \$2.4bn, about one-third of expected earnings from exports and workers' remittances. This ratio should fall to more manageable levels over coming years—to around 25 per cent in 1983 and under 20 per cent by 1985.

Turkey's medium-term debt to the banks totals \$3.1bn. The banks appear unwilling to take on further Turkey risks as long as their exposure remains outstanding. The debts to suppliers—the so-called non-guaranteed trade arrears—total \$1.3bn. A large number of suppliers are selling this debt at between 32 and 36 per cent of their face value, an indication of their lack of faith in the country's ability to repay them.

Recent developments indicate that despite the cloud cast by these debts, banks are looking more favourably on Turkey. One area in which there has been continuous favourable development over the past 10 months or so is trade credit lines. A large number of foreign banks have been extending their credit limits to the

central bank and commercial banks and improving the terms. The central bank and commercial banks are no longer obliged to deposit 100 per cent cash cover for imports. Although cash cover is still required, this is generally between 10 and 50 per cent and getting smaller.

The development arises mainly from increased availability of foreign exchange. Also, the central bank is in the hands of such widely-respected individuals as Mr Yavuz Canevi and Mr Zekeriya Yildirim, who, under the governorship of Mr Osman Siklar, succeeded in restoring confidence in the institution. Moreover, Turkish commercial banks have been given greater freedom to build up foreign currency reserves and to use them to finance imports.

The recent syndication of a \$100m loan by the central bank is also a good omen and an example which is likely to be followed. The loan was lead managed by the Libyan Arab Bank and funded by 10 Arab banks.

Representatives of 12 Kuwaiti banks and finance houses are to visit Turkey later this week at the invitation of the central bank, which wants Kuwait to take the lead in syndicating a medium-term programme loan of between \$150m and \$200m. The central bank said the Kuwaitis themselves had agreed in principle to put up \$50m towards the loan.

A self-liquidating loan

syndicated by American Express for the Yemir-based Turk Tuborg Company seems to have run into difficulty. Turk Tuborg, a privately-owned company whose majority equity holder is foreign, said that the repayment guarantees demanded by the banks were "too tough to accept—at this point we are at a deadlock but all hope is not lost."

The move for the parent company was \$16m (\$546m), a rise of 27 per cent compared with the first half of 1980. Group turnover was up 24 per cent at L1,133bn.

Domestic sales for the parent company rose 21 per cent while export sales were up by 37 per cent. The company says that its profits also rose "notably" over the period. Last May, Sig Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti's vice-chairman who has brought about the company's recovery since he took over in 1978, predicted profits of L150bn for this year compared with L104bn for 1980.

Orders taken in Italy by the parent company in the half year rose by 17.6 per cent. Group orders rose by 27 per cent. The parent company has virtually halved its debt in the six months from December 31, 1980, to June 30, 1981, bringing it down by L163.4bn to L165.5bn thanks to the capital increase launched earlier this year and to increased self-financing. The company's ratio of interest charges to turnover has fallen in the 12 months to June 30, 1981, from 7.8 per cent to 4.2 per cent.

Export buoyancy boosts turnover at Olivetti

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

OLIVETTI, the Italian business equipment and electronics manufacturer, yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase in turnover for the first six months of this year. It also disclosed a sharp rise in exports, sharply higher electronic typewriter sales and a marked drop in debt.

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The company, based at Ivrea in Northern Italy, said that the proportion of sales accounted for by electronic typewriters rose from 7.9 per cent in the first half of 1980 to 20 per cent in the first half of this year. Information processing products accounted for 58.7 per cent of sales and other office products for 21.3 per cent.

Olivetti says its improved performance has enabled it to devote more resources to research and development. About 3 per cent of turnover went on research and development in 1978, the first year of Sig de Benedetti's management. This year about L110bn, making up 4 per cent of turnover, is likely to be spent.

About 30 per cent of the shares of Olivetti are owned by the French company, St Gobain, which is due to be nationalised under the Mitterrand Government's plan. Sig de Benedetti plays down possible concern about the future of the relationship of Olivetti with the French company.

Olivetti is 70 per cent Italian. It is wrong to raise today the problems of the French presence in our company. It would be like saying that Fiat belongs to the Libyans," he said last week in a reference to the 10 per cent stake the Libyan Government has in Italy's biggest private enterprise.

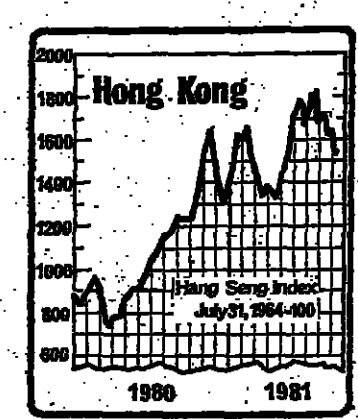
Hong Kong blow to share issues

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG'S two largest stock exchanges, The Kam Ngan stock exchange and the Far East Exchange, have placed a moratorium on new share issues by companies. The decision has widened divisions between officials of Hong Kong's four stock exchanges and has attracted adverse criticism from the semi-official Securities Commission and major merchant banks.

The Hong Kong and the Kowloon stock exchanges remain accessible to new flotations. However, the Kam Ngan and the Far East exchanges take up approximately 80 per cent of the total daily turnover, and their decision is likely to halt all new issues.

The moratorium does not affect this week's HK\$85m flotation by Chuang's Properties, and also allows rights issues to go on as before. Mr Ronald Li, the chairman of the Far East Exchange, said the moratorium was imposed because of a fear that further new issues might further weaken the stock market, which has fallen sharply over the past few weeks.



New issues were halted in March this year for over two months and the action proved successful in stemming what could have turned into a steep decline of share prices, he said.

The main market indicator, the Hang Seng Index, closed Friday at 1,538.55 points, compared with the all-time high of 1,810.20 reached on July 17. Since the previous moratorium was lifted in May, six new issues have come to the market taking up funds of over HK\$1bn (some U.S.\$170m). The most recent

flotation was by Hysan Development Company, which issued shares worth HK\$450m and was 2.7 times oversubscribed. So far this year, 10 companies have been publicly floated and the stock exchanges have said that another eight applications have been received.

Mr Li said that he is also worried that if new issues trade below their issue price, future flotations may find it difficult to gain public acceptance.

The decision by the two exchanges to halt new issues has drawn criticism from the Securities Commission, which is a semi-official body set up to maintain order in the stock market. The Commission was opposed to the previous moratorium and has not changed its view. It has advised the stock exchanges that it would prefer to see an orderly queuing system for new issues. However, the stock exchanges unanimously see this as impractical. Merchant banks have also criticised the moratorium. They see the timing and pricing of new issues as a matter for the market to determine.

Hagemeyer lifts first-half profit despite lower sales

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

HAGEMEYER, THE Dutch trading and industrial group, reports higher first-half profits on turnover depressed by a fall in the world market price for coffee.

Trading profit, before depreciation and tax, rose 11 per cent to F1 36.8m (\$14m) in the first six months of 1981. Net profit rose to F1 1.5m from F1 1m, confirming that profits are continuing to recover gradually.

Hagemeyer made a substantial loss in 1978 but moved back into the black in 1979, more than doubling net profit to F1 8.3m in 1980.

Depreciation rose 10 per cent to F1 6.3m in the 1981 first half, and the net interest charge was 21 per cent higher at F1 26.2m.

Hagemeyer reserved F1 2.7m (F1 4.4m) for tax while the share of minority interests fell to F1 130,000 (F1 310,000).

The company excluded F1 300,000 of currency profits from the accounts. In the 1980 first half these profits were F1 500,000.

Turnover fell F1 71m to F1 867m. This was the result of a fall of F1 124m in coffee-related sales, because of the sharp fall in the world market price, and an increase of F1 53m in other sales.

Hagemeyer has acquired a half share in Technische Warenfabrikation und Vertrieb, a West German trading company which imports and distributes audio and video equipment.

North Borneo Timber goes into the red

SINGAPORE—North Borneo Timber of Malaysia said a terrorist attack on operations in the Philippines led to a 7m ringgit (U.S.\$3m) extraordinary loss, pushing the company into the red for the year ended May.

Pre-tax profit, excluding extraordinary items, was 7.2m ringgit, still down 47 per cent from a year earlier, but investments in German B. Aranzave of the Philippines left the logging concern with consolidated attributable loss of 2.1m ringgit compared with a profit of 2.2m ringgit a year earlier.

Weaker commodity prices also affected the company's interests in cocoa plantations. North Borneo has declared a 5 sen final dividend compared with 10 sen a year earlier. AP-DJ

Doubled interim result for Dutch foods group

BY OUR AMSTERDAM CORRESPONDENT

NET PROFIT of Wessanen, the Dutch foodstuffs group, doubled in the first half of 1981 on slightly higher turnover. Nevertheless, the company is prepared to forecast only that profit for the year as a whole will be "higher" than in 1980.

Net profit rose to F1 10.3m from F1 5.2m in the same 1980 half on sales which were 11 per cent higher at F1 1.4bn. The increase in turnover was largely the result of rises in the price of raw materials.

Trading profit rose 18 per

cent to F1 49.5m. The net interest charge fell by F1 3m to F1 11.5m, although depreciation increased by F1 2m to F1 17.6m and the tax charge was F1 3m higher at F1 8.2m.

Wessanen booked an extraordinary loss of F1 880,000 compared with a loss of F1 280,000 last time, but credited a F1 360,000 share in non-consolidated company profits. The company's mixed feed and meat activities have been under pressure but a recovery is expected in the current half.

Marzotto sees earnings rise

By Our Financial Staff

MARZOTTO, THE Italian textile company, has increased turnover by 15.3 per cent to L118.7bn (\$98m) for the first half of 1981 from a year earlier. It expects sales of L250bn for the year as a whole, a 20 per cent increase.

Marzotto said that the rise was chiefly the result of exports, which jumped 47 per cent to L47.8bn. The company also forecasts higher profits for 1981.

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HK\$1,000,000,000 9 1/4% Guaranteed
Unsecured Loan Stock 1984/95

Notice is hereby given that the Register of Holders of the 9 1/4% Guaranteed Unsecured Loan Stock 1984/95 ("Loan Stock") will be closed from 1st October to 15th October, 1981 (both dates inclusive) to establish the identity of those loan stockholders entitled to the half-yearly interest payment, payable on 15th October, 1981.

In order to qualify for the interest payment all transfers, accompanied by the relevant loan stock certificates, must be lodged with the Company's Registrars, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, not later than 4.00 p.m. on 30th September, 1981.

JARDINE MATHESON (FINANCE) LIMITED
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Limited
Secretaries

Hong Kong, 10th September, 1981.

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Canada to back KHD project

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE CANADIAN engine plant planned by Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz, the West German engineering group, will be financed jointly with the Canadian Government. The plant will produce KHD's 610 V8 eight-cylinder series, 11 per cent lighter engine. Output will start in 1983 and KHD expects an initial 15,000 engines per year. Capacity would be flexible and could be expanded should U.S. demand prove even stronger than expected.

There are still a number of impediments surrounding the Canadian move, including the exact site of the plant and amount available for start-up investment. First reports from Canada have suggested that the whole project may cost about C\$150m (U.S.\$125m).

Two considerations seem to underpin the KHD decision. First, the Canadian Government has shown itself ready to provide special grants to draw direct investment to the country. This proved to be an important factor in Volkswagen's recent decision to locate a Canadian C\$100m car parts plant in Ontario. Other studies have shown that the proportion of U.S. diesel engine trucks in the middle range would rise from 15 per cent in 1980 to 35 per cent in 1985. KHD hopes to exploit this market potential using the twin arms of its Canadian and Richmond factories.

KHD's engine division saw sales go up last year by 9 per cent to DM 1.8bn (\$750m). By contrast, sales of agricultural machinery fell by 1 per cent to DM 1.1bn and orders by 4 per cent also to DM 1.1bn. KHD parent company profits fell to DM 37.1m after tax from DM 52.1m. Sales turnover was up by 12 per cent to DM 1.2bn.

Companies
and Markets

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\$18M ACTION OVER IWASAWA BAD DEBT

Chase files suit against Tokai Bank

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

CHASE MANHATTAN has carried forward the legal battle over responsibility for losses resulting from loans obtained by the troubled Iwasawa group of companies in Hokkaido, northern Japan.

Chase is the first foreign bank to take the problem to court. It launched last week a suit involving \$18m in a U.S. District court in New York against Tokai Bank, of Nagoya. Two other suits are being brought in Japan involving the defendant Japanese companies and the former leader of the group, Mr Otsu Iwasawa.

The companies are Hokkaido Television Broadcasting, Sapporo Teikoku (currently in receivership), and Kinsei Motors. Tokai Bank is a main backer of the Iwasawa group. Chase has emerged as the largest foreign lender.

There are 11 other foreign bank branches in Japan involved in loans (which totalled over \$100m when the crisis broke) to the Iwasawa group. Chase has launched its legal action in New York on the basis of what it claims are "letters of guarantee" from Tokai Bank on the loans. Only

three of the foreign banks involved hold such letters from Tokai.

To date none of the other banks have taken legal steps against either Tokai Bank, one of Japan's powerful "city" banks, or the companies involved.

Chase Manhattan filed on September 2 in Tokyo District Court for a ruling establishing the legality of promissory notes it had from Hokkaido Television Broadcasting and Kinsei Motors. A hearing is scheduled for October 8. Chase accounts for slightly less than 14% of the foreign bank loans outstanding to the Iwasawa group. One banker involved estimated the total at ¥7.2tn against a reported ¥2.2tn outstanding when the group's troubles became known. Some banks, it seems, have cashed in on collateral.

In addition, this week Chase is taking the extraordinary step for a foreign bank of filing a suit against an individual, in Hokkaido District Court against Mr Otsu Iwasawa, the founder and erstwhile leader of the Iwasawa group. Mr Iwasawa's name appears as guarantor for

loans on documents received by the foreign banks, Chase says, and wants him to make good the loans.

In March this year Hokkaido Television Broadcasting said its financial problems were directly related to unsuccessful stock market speculation, involving the company's funds, by Mr Iwasawa.

Mr Iwasawa has not appeared in public since the issue came to light in the Press. His whereabouts are unknown.

Tokai Bank is the 23rd largest bank in the world. Its dispute with the U.S. giant Chase stems from letters sent to Chase by the Tokai Bank's Sapporo (Hokkaido) branch early this year giving assurances on its "support" for the Iwasawa group of companies.

Copies of the letters have been filed with the U.S. court in New York as evidence. The letters were written after Chase asked for additional collateral on what were mostly fastly depreciating shares at the time, to cover the loans.

Tokai Bank has maintained in the past that, though it "introduced" the foreign banks, it has carried no legal responsibility as guarantor for the

loans. Tokai, along with a number of other Japanese banks also has extensive loans outstanding to the Iwasawa group.

Tokai has not commented on the suit filed in the U.S. by Chase.

Chase would be willing to withdraw the suits if any of the parties involved was willing to arrange to make good the loans. Tokai Bank's own position in the matter, however, makes an out of court settlement a sensitive issue.

The foreign banks involved divide into two groups, Chase and two others with letters from Tokai Bank. The rest are relying on negotiations with Tokai Bank and the companies involved in finding a settlement.

It appears that the banks would be willing to take some losses, just to resolve the problem. A failure to reach an acceptable agreement, it is feared, could cause serious strains on the business relationships which Tokai Bank enjoys with any of the banks internationally.

The Japanese authorities so far have not become involved in the dispute between the foreign banks and Tokai Bank.

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September 8, 1981

Securities houses to make scrip issues

By Our Financial Staff

FOUR MAJOR Japanese securities companies have said they will make scrip issues given their expectations of sharp profit increases.

Nomura Securities Company will make a 3-for-100 issue and Nikko Securities Company, Daiwa Securities Company, and Yamachida Securities Company will make 5-for-100 issues.

The companies said the issues would help distribute the substantial profits expected for the year ending this month following active foreign purchases of Japanese stocks during the period and would also return to shareholders the premiums prompted by capital issues at market prices in the past year.

Nomura plans to raise its dividend payment to ¥7 per ¥50 share for the year from ¥6 last year. The company is expecting a 33 per cent rise in its after-tax profit to a record ¥44bn (\$190m).

The other companies plan to maintain their dividends at ¥6. Nikko expects a 31 per cent rise after-tax profit to a record ¥24bn, Daiwa a 50 per cent rise to a record ¥20bn, and Yamachida a 29 per cent rise to ¥15bn.

Net foreign sales of Japanese stocks in the first week of September rose sharply, to ¥44.95bn from ¥34.57bn in the fourth week of August.

This is the second highest level on record, after the ¥47.20bn of the fourth week in July.

Foreign sales through 12 Japanese securities houses in the September week fell by 7.7 per cent to ¥83.39bn from the preceding week, while purchases fell by 31.1 per cent to ¥38.44bn, the lowest level since the ¥33.84bn of the fourth week of last December.

Setback at Mitsubishi Chemical

BY YOKO SHIRATA IN TOKYO

MITSUBISHI Chemical Industries, Japan's largest chemical company suffered a steep fall in earnings for the half-year to July 31 1981. The setback is attributed to delayed inventory adjustment caused by a drop in demand following speculative demand the previous year.

Half-year operating profits fell by 90.5 per cent to ¥1.56bn (\$6.7m). Net profits were 70.3 per cent lower at ¥2.32bn on sales of ¥364.61bn (\$1.6tn), down 13.3 per cent from the year earlier level. Half year profits per share were ¥2.21, compared with ¥7.82.

Sales by the company's carbon products division fell by 2.1 per cent to account for 30.7 per cent of the total, while the petrochemical division saw a

sales setback of 23.1 per cent to account for 42.7 per cent.

As well as stagnant demand, sales were hit by the inflow of American semi-processed products, encouraged by the sharp fall of the yen against the dollar and heavier competition from U.S. exporters in overseas markets. The company's exports fell by 18 per cent to account for 12.1 per cent of total turnover.

The Japanese chemical industry sees no sign of improvement in demand in the rest of the current year, and manufacturers are planning to increase prices to stem operating losses.

Mitsubishi Chemical expects an improvement in sales for the year to end January but earnings are forecast to remain

at a low level.

Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for an issue of 15m common shares to be offered to U.S. holders of common stock and holders of American Depositary shares, which represent 50 shares of common stock. The sale is part of an offering of \$61.2m common shares to shareholders in Japan and elsewhere. Reuter reports from Tokyo.

U.S. holders of American Depositary shares will be offered one additional Depositary share for each 24 shares held. The registration statement is expected to become effective around September 17 and the offering to expire on October 16.

SA deal to form major Zimbabwe cement group

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

PORTLAND HOLDINGS, the Zimbabwean company whose main interest is a 50 per cent stake in the cement producer United Portland Cement, is to buy 50.5 per cent of the country's other major cement producer, Premier Portland Cement, from that company's controlling South African shareholders.

Pretoria Portland Cement, which is 54 per cent-owned by Barlow Rand, Thos. Barlow Pension Fund, and Amosite Holdings, have agreed to sell 1.32m shares in Premier Portland to Portland Holdings at \$2.35 per share. A similar offer will be made to other shareholders, but if the Zimbabwean Government promulgates a capital gains tax before the end of this year,

an alternative offer of four Portland Holdings shares for each Premier Portland share will be made.

Portland Holdings' directors believe that the acquisition is in the national interest as it will localise control of a major part of a basic industry. It will also allow rationalisation of the operations of Premier Portland and United Portland, in which Premier is the other 50 per cent owner.

In the year ended July 31 1981, United Portland increased pre-tax trading profit to \$24.87m (U.S.\$6.6m) from \$23.84m in the previous year. In the six months to February 28 1981, Premier Portland had a pre-tax income of \$31.18m compared with \$36.82m in the corresponding period of 1980.

Advance by Singapore Airlines

By Our Financial Staff

SINGAPORE AIRLINES, or SIA, increased airline profits after tax by 38.6 per cent in the year-to March 31, to \$894.3m (U.S.\$45m), with the inclusion of dividends from subsidiaries and exceptional items raised by the sale of old aircraft.

At group level, profits after tax were \$811.7m, for a gain of 31.3 per cent. Parent airline company total revenue exceeded \$829m for the first time, rising 21.1 per cent to \$82.90m (U.S.\$1.1bn). Group revenue was up 28.9 per cent to \$82.45m.

The parent company profit before tax from airline operations showed a gain of 15 per cent to \$818.2m.

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

U.S. \$30,000,000

Korea Exchange Bank

(Incorporated in the Republic of Korea under the Korea Exchange Bank Act of 1966)

Floating Rate Notes Due 1988



The following have agreed to subscribe or procure subscribers for the Notes:

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

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European Banking Company Limited

National Bank of Abu Dhabi

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale

Banque Nationale de Paris

DBS-Daiwa Securities International Limited

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Nomura International Limited

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The issue price of the Notes is 100 per cent. The Notes have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange, subject only to the issue of the Notes.

Interest is payable semi-annually in April and October, the first payment being made in April 1982.

Full particulars of Korea Exchange Bank and the Notes are available in the Extel Statistical Service and may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 29th September, 1981 from the brokers to the issue:

Vickers da Costa Limited,
Regis House, King William Street,
London EC4R 9AR

15th September, 1981

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

£30,000,000

Nippon Electric Co., Ltd.

(Nippon Denki Kabushiki Kaisha)

(Incorporated with limited liability under the Commercial Code of Japan)

5³/₄% Convertible Bonds Due 1996

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Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

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The Convertible Bonds Due 1996 of £1,000 each, issued at 100 per cent., have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange, subject only to the issue of the Bonds.

Interest is payable semi-annually, in arrears, on 31st March and 30th September in each year, except that the first interest payment will be made on 31st March, 1982 in respect of the period from 28th September, 1981 to 31st March, 1982.

Particulars of the Bonds are available in the Extel Statistical Service and may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 29th September, 1981 from the brokers to the issue:

Vickers da Costa Limited,
Regis House, King William Street,
London EC4R 9AR.

Rowe & Pitman,
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London EC2A 1JA.

15th September, 1981

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

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OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS FUNDS

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FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

LOANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	Public Board and Ind.	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	U.S. Gov. Sec. 1982	100	0.25	11.56	0.25
100	99	U.S. Gov. Sec. 1982	100	0.25	11.56	0.25

Financial

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	FFI 14% 1982	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	FFI 14% 1982	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	FFI 14% 1982	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

Building Societies

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	Autopista Ry...	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Autopista Ry...	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Autopista Ry...	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

AMERICANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	AMF 5% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	AMF 5% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	AMF 5% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

Over Fifteen Years

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	Treasury 15% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Treasury 15% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Treasury 15% 1981	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

Updated

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	Consols 4%	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Consols 4%	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	Consols 4%	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

CORPORATION LOANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

CANADIANS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

HOTELS AND CATERERS

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Yld	Div
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
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100	99	100% 1981 14% 1982 14.82	100	0.25	13.24	0.25
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Growth in Japanese surplus with EEC

By Giles Merritt in Brussels

JAPAN'S trade surplus with the European Community and the U.S. has grown dramatically this year, despite promises from Tokyo of a brake on Japanese exports.

During the first seven months of 1981, European Commission officials said, Japan achieved a surplus on its exports to the EEC of \$6.3bn (£3.5bn)—an increase of 32 per cent. The surplus on Japan's trade with the U.S. was also \$6.3bn—up 80 per cent.

The EEC-Japan trade gap may prove to be even greater when more precise figures are analysed, the officials warned. The trade details released yesterday are based on figures supplied by Tokyo.

In the past Japanese statistics have understated the scale of the imbalance. The absence of UK trade figures because of the recent civil servants' strike is still hampering the European Commission's efforts to compile fresh EEC statistics.

Although the U.S. deficit on trade with Japan is growing considerably faster than that of the EEC—the Reagan Administration has warned that by the end of 1981 it may well total a record \$13.14bn—Brussels now emphasises that the comparable EEC deficit is on a considerably smaller volume of trade.

During the first seven months of this year Japanese imports from the EEC stood at \$5bn and exports to the EEC were \$11.3bn (£6.35bn), while for the U.S. the comparable figures were \$21.2bn (£11.9bn) worth of Japanese exports and \$14.9bn worth of U.S. sales to Japan.

The worsening trend in European and North American trade with Japan is to be examined once more at special ministerial talks due to be held in New York towards the end of October.

The informal meeting will group Japan, the U.S., the EEC, and possibly Canada, and is being looked to by Brussels as an important opportunity for Japan to forecast its export intentions during 1982.

The Brussels Commission has, however, noted a slackening of the rate of increase in Japan's car exports to the EEC following the conclusion of bilateral export restraint deals with a number of Community member States earlier this year.

During the first quarter of 1981 Japanese car sales in the EEC were running at 20 per cent above the same 1980 quarter, for the first seven months as a whole that rate had slowed perceptibly to average only a 5 per cent rise over the January-July period last year.

Japanese export credits Page 6

Weather

UK TODAY
SUNNY intervals and showers in the west; elsewhere cloudy with rain, clearing from the west. Cool.

Wales, W. England, Lake district, Isle of Man, S.W. Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N. Ireland.

Summ. intervals, scattered showers, Max. 17C (63F).

Sheffield
Cloudy, some rain. Max. 12C (54F).

Elsewhere
Cloudy with some rain, becoming brighter later from the west. Max. 18C (64F).

Outlook: Unsettled and windy. Showers, sunny intervals.

WORLDWIDE

	Y'day	Midday	Y'midday
Ajaccio	27	75	14
Algiers	27	81	27
Amman	27	81	27
Antwerp	27	75	14
Athens	27	81	27
Bahia	27	75	14
Batavia	27	81	27
Bombay	27	81	27
Buenos Aires	27	81	27
Calcutta	27	81	27
Cairo	27	81	27
Canton	27	81	27
Cebu	27	81	27
Colon	27	81	27
Hankow	27	81	27
Hong Kong	27	81	27
Kobe	27	81	27
London	27	81	27
Lyons	27	81	27
Manila	27	81	27
Medan	27	81	27
Montevideo	27	81	27
Osaka	27	81	27
Paris	27	81	27
Rangoon	27	81	27
San Francisco	27	81	27
Singapore	27	81	27
Sourabaya	27	81	27
Taipei	27	81	27
Tokyo	27	81	27
Yokohama	27	81	27

Sweden devalues krona 10%

BY WILLIAM DUFFLOR, NORDIC EDITOR, IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN YESTERDAY devalued the krona by 10 per cent as part of a programme to stabilise its economy and make Swedish industry more competitive.

Prime Minister Thorbjörn Fälldin also announced a 3.46 per cent reduction in value added tax to 20 per cent on November 1 and a price freeze on Swedish goods and services until the end of the year.

Industry receives various investment incentives. Labour laws are to be relaxed to make the workforce more flexible.

Some of the public spending cuts planned for the 1982-83 fiscal year starting in July will be brought forward to January. These will affect pensions, local authority building and defence spending.

Mr Rolf Wirtén, the Economy and Budget Minister, said the devaluation should raise industrial output by 7 per cent to 8 per cent next year and in the longer-term create between

30,000 and 40,000 jobs. It would also enable Swedish exporters to take advantage of the 4 per cent to 5 per cent expansion in world trade forecast for next year.

The combined measures would cut the expected growth in imports next year from 10 per cent to 5 per cent and reduce the deficit on current account from more than SKr 20bn (£2.1bn) to between SKr 15bn and SKr 20bn, Mr Wirtén predicted.

Mr Lars Wöhlén, the Riksbank (central bank) governor, said the devaluation would not alter his present tight monetary policy. He offered no scope for a cut in interest rates for the time being.

Mr Fälldin's minority, centre-liberal coalition will need the backing of either the Conservative or Social Democrat opposition if it is to obtain parliamentary approval for its tax and other fiscal measures. Mr Gösta Bohman, the Con-

servative leader who took his party out of the coalition in May, said he would have preferred a wage freeze offset by cuts in income tax but praised the boldness of the Government's action.

Industry reacted favourably to the moves. But some businessmen argued that the devaluation should have been 15 per cent.

On the Stockholm stock exchange the industrial shares index rose by more than 10 per cent. The price of pulp and paper companies advanced strongly.

The Government packet includes: ● Support of SKr 275m to promote the supply of timber to the mills.

● A year's extension of the tax-free allowance for company investments in buildings and inventories introduced last year.

The Government proposes that 25 per cent of corporate earnings above SKr 1m should be siphoned off to special investment funds accounts in the Riksbank to ensure that the expected increase in profits goes to investment and not to inflationary wage demands.

None of Sweden's Scandinavian neighbours has any plans to follow suit, our Nordic staff adds.

In Copenhagen, Mr Ivar Noergaard, the Danish Economy Minister said the Swedish krona had been seriously overvalued.

Norway's Finance Minister, Mr Ulf Sand, said the Swedish move would have little long-term effect on the competitive position of Norwegian industry.

Norway's Federation of Industry, however, warned that the Swedish moves would "seriously weaken" the country's competitive position.

Details, Page 3

Liberals say reshuffle aids centre groups

BY IVOR OWEN

LIBERAL LEADERS claimed in a statement last night that Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet changes will further boost support for the party's electoral alliance with the Social Democrats.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal chief whip in the Commons, accused the Prime Minister of concentrating around her those Ministers prepared to give unquestioning support to present monetarist policies regardless of their effect in increasing unemployment to still higher levels.

The leading cabinet "wets," who had sought to exercise a

moderating influence, had either ditched or moved to other demanding posts which would leave them with little opportunity to make any great impact on economic policies.

As a result, Mr Beith contended, more and more people, unimpressed by the spendthrift policies of the Labour Party and the TUC, would turn to an alliance between the Liberals and the SDP for a constructive alternative.

The build-up to the opening of the Liberal Assembly today was dominated by criticism of Mr David Steel, the Liberal

leader. His warning that go-it-alone Liberal candidates, who seek to contest constituencies alone, will under an alliance between the Liberals and the SDP would be repudiated, has clearly angered many Liberal councillors and leading members of the Young Liberals.

Miss Sue Younger, chairman of the National League of Young Liberals, protested bitterly and forecast that if Mr Steel persisted with such tactics he might talk himself out of the leadership of the Liberal Party.

Miss Jane Merritt, chairman of the Union of Liberal Students, condemned the SDP leadership's willingness to accept Mr Michael O'Halloran, their most recent recruit, from the ranks of Labour MPs.

She gave notice that when the Assembly is asked to back the alliance tomorrow, an attempt will be made to force through an amendment designed to ensure that bank-rout politicians like Michael O'Halloran are not dumped on local parties.

Liberals prepare alliance, Page 3

Ford diesel engine plan for UK

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

FORD IS understood to be close to a decision to establish a car diesel engine manufacturing plant in Britain.

The plant, likely to be at Dagenham, Essex, would provide engines for models built both in the UK and at the company's Continental factories.

There is as yet no firm indication of the possible time scale for establishing such a plant, nor of which models might be involved.

The only diesel car offered by Ford in Europe is the Granada, the engine of which is supplied by Peugeot. Publicly, Ford has taken a distinctly uke-warm attitude towards the diesel, sug-

gesting instead that its need for increasingly fuel-efficient engines would be met by further refining the petrol engine. The company pulled out of a joint development project with Cummins at the end of 1979 to concentrate on its advanced "Procon" petrol engine.

Since then, it has found itself virtually alone among volume manufacturers in not offering a diesel version of its more popular cars.

But the mounting pressures for Ford to seek a wider diesel option show up in the rapidly growing registrations of diesel cars. In Europe, sales have

grown from 1.7 per cent of the total market in 1973 to 5.8 per cent in 1980, or just over 500,000 units.

In the U.S., where diesel cars were virtually non-existent until five years ago, diesel cars now account for 4.2 per cent of the market and General Motors has predicted that 20 per cent of its output could be diesels by 1985.

Executives at Ford UK were yesterday reluctant to discuss the projected plant but it was expected that more light would be shed on the proposal at the Frankfurt motor show later this week.

S. Africa considers further gold swaps

By Bernard Smith in Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Reserve Bank may negotiate further gold "swaps" with foreign banks to strengthen its foreign currency reserves, Dr Chris Stals, the bank's Senior Deputy Governor, has revealed.

Dr Stals also disclosed in an interview that, in an effort to stabilise the bullion market, the Reserve Bank stopped selling gold for up to a week at a time during July when the price dropped below \$400 an ounce. South Africa is the world's leading gold producer, accounting for about three-quarters of non-Communist output.

The South Africans intend discussing the terms of future gold swaps with bankers at the forthcoming joint annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington, Dr Stals said. Although numerous offers had been received, few had met the Reserve Bank's conditions, he said, particularly its insistence on having first option to buy the gold back at the swap price plus interest.

Reshuffle

Continued from Page One

porters, came as a surprise to many MPs but the change was apparently made at Sir Keith's request. He felt he wanted a change and chose the Education Department.

The switch of Mr Patrick Jenkin from Social Services, where he attracted acclaim from the Prime Minister for his organisational ability and his attempts to curtail spending, should mean a tougher industry department attitude to the release of state funds to nationalised industries.

Mr Norman Fowler, another

close supporter of Mrs Thatcher, is promoted from Transport to Social Services, while Mr David Howell, who suffered several political reverses as Energy Secretary, moves down the Cabinet "league table" to Transport.

His place is taken by Mr Lawson, one of the most dedicated and fluent advocates of Mrs Thatcher's monetarist policies.

Mr Humphrey, who has served 24 years in the Northern Ireland Office, the most arduous and thank-

less in Government, was considered ready for a transfer. He takes Sir Ian Gilmour's place as Deputy Foreign Secretary. He has had little previous experience of foreign affairs but his background includes being head of a major department and a former chief whip.

Another close colleague of the Prime Minister, Baroness Young, is promoted to Leader of the Lords and Minister in charge of the Civil Service Department. She replaces Lord

Continued from Page 1

ICL product range

It will work with Three Rivers to develop a cheaper version of the Perq, which at present costs £25,000 in Britain, and also to develop a more sophisticated model.

ICL is seeking to expand sales by marketing through computer systems, software and services houses and by direct selling through wholesale and retail outlets.

Mr Wilmut expected one-third of ICL's small computer sales to be through retail and mail-order outlets within nine months.

He said that ICL was still looking for small companies with innovative products which it could make and market under licence. But he declined to give any details of talks which it has been holding on collaborative ventures with other companies,

including Fujitsu of Japan. He confirmed, however, that ICL needed a partner which could supply it with the latest technology for big computers. It is also believed to be seeking deals in micro chip technology and telecommunications.

Mr Christopher Laidlaw, chairman, said that ICL's borrowings would start levelling off later this year or early next. But he declined to forecast when the company, which lost more than £50m pre-tax in the first half of this year, would return to profit.

Continued from Page 1

Interest rates

The Bank's desire for a rise in interest rates was signalled by its move to lend £79m in overnight money to discount houses at 13½ per cent—about 14 percentage points above the previous market level of overnight rates.

The entire interest rate structure on the money markets moved up almost immediately. The key seven-day inter-bank rate rose after the announcement from 12½ to 13½ per cent, although rises were smaller in longer dated periods.

The Bank said the action was "primarily a response to the external situation."

But it also said that a rise in interest rates was necessary in view of rapid expansion of bank lending to the private sector, and of the "obscurity" surrounding the money supply

figures as a result of the civil servants' dispute. This follows the Bank's announcement last week that distortions caused by the dispute had forced it to abandon efforts to judge whether the money supply was still growing in line with the Government's target.

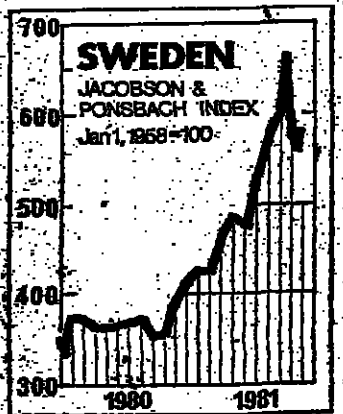
Yesterday's move sent shock waves through the London securities markets. Long-dated gilt-edged prices fell up to 14 points to just above their lowest levels this year. The FT 30 share index fell 11.5 to 541.9.

On the foreign exchange markets, some dealers were doubtful whether the monetary tightening would have a long-term impact when U.S. interest rates are still much higher, and confidence in Continental currencies is reviving.

THE LEX COLUMN

The Bank puts on the brakes

Index fell 11.5 to 541.9



still in a very fragile state, a tighter monetary climate, reduce the scope for volume recovery, as well as raising the cost of money for street companies. For instance, profits forecast made yesterday morning by Illingworth Motors is already looking distinctly wobbly.

A steady fall of the exchange rate may bring foreign demand back to the gilt-edged market, but yields down from the present levels. But the yield on a 10-year gilt is 14½ per cent, a far cry from the 18 per cent which was the yield on a 10-year gilt in the middle of a trading year which extends back to the spring, yesterday's setback was not the end of the story.

Sweden

The Swedish stock market was one of the outstanding performers in the world during the first part of 1981, rising by about three fifths between January and August. Much of that rise was fuelled by foreign buying with London to the fore, so yesterday's 10 per cent devaluation of the Krona is of more than passing interest to the international investor.

The Krona is valued against a basket of currencies in which the U.S. dollar is heavily weighted. So the dollar's strength has dragged the Swedish currency up against those of its main trading partners and, even after yesterday's move, the Krona has held up well relative to sterling this year.

The package, which includes a price freeze until the end of the year, and a cut in Value Added Tax, is designed to restore the export competitiveness of Swedish industry, which has been expected to suffer a three per cent fall in output this year.

However, prices are rising around 14 per cent a year and there has been no move to check accelerating wage inflation. In what Swedish companies pay on export margins they may lose in a domestic profit squeeze. Share prices in the Stockholm pulp and paper sector were generally stronger yesterday but there was no clear change elsewhere in the market. Foreign investors, who had been taking profits in recent weeks, seemed to be sitting on their hands.

The government is trying to shock inflation on to a lower level but is doing it with a package, which seems likely to squeeze industry, especially since there is no sign of a cut in interest rates which some had been expecting. The market is 18 per cent off the peak and the international optimism for Sweden seems to be evaporating.

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